PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 458 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2006–2007

COMPRISING PERIOD
12 March—29 March 2007

LIBRARIES

Cam Reg C11071

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

(Formed by the Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP, May 2005)

Prime Minister, First Lord Of The Treasury And Minister For The Civil Service—The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP
Deputy Prime Minister And First Secretary Of State—The Rt. Hon. John Prescott, MP
Chancellor Of The Exchequer—The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP
Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal—The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—The Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett, MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry—The Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department—The Rt. Hon. John Reid, MP
Secretary of State for Health—The Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt, MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport—The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Minister for Social Exclusion (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Armstrong, MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales—The Rt. Hon. Peter Hain, MP
Leader of the House of Lords and President of the Council—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Amos
Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC
Secretary of State for International Development—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, MP
Secretary of State for Education and Skills—The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government—The Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—The Rt. Hon. David Miliband, MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions—The Rt. Hon. John Hutton, MP
Secretary of State for Defence—The Rt. Hon. Des Browne, MP
Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP
Minister without Portfolio—The Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms, Esq, MP

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

Cabinet Office—

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Minister for Social Exclusion (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Armstrong, MP

Minister Without Portfolio—The Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears, MP

Parliamentary Secretaries—
Pat McFadden, Esq, MP
Edward Miliband, MP

Communities and Local Government—

Secretary of State and Minister for Women—The Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, MP

Ministers Of State—
Minister for Local Government—Phil Woolas, Esq, MP
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries Of State—
Angela E. Smith, MP
Meg Munn (Minister for Women and Equality)
The Baroness Andrews, OBE

Constitutional Affairs—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC

Minister of State—
The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
The Baroness Ashton of Upholland
Bridget Prentice, MP
Vera Baird, QC, MP

Culture, Media and Sport—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—
Minister for Sport—The Rt. Hon. Richard Caborn, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Shaun Woodward, Esq, MP
David Lammy, Esq, MP

Defence—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Des Browne, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
The Rt. Hon. Adam Ingram, MP
The Lord Drayson

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
Derek Twigg, MP

Education and Skills—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Schools—Jim Knight, MP
Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning—Bill Rammell, MP
Minister for Children and Families—The Rt. Hon. Beverley Hughes, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
The Lord Adonis
Phil Hope, MP
Parmjit Dhanda, Esq, MP

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. David Miliband, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment—Ian Pearson, MP
Minister for Sustainable Farming and Food—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rooker
Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare— Ben Bradshaw, Esq, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
Barry Gardiner, MP

Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Europe—The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Hoon, MP
Minister for Trade—The Rt. Hon. Ian McCartney, MP
Minister for the Middle East—Dr. Kim Howells, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
The Lord Triesman

Health—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP
Andy Burnham, MP
Caroline Flint, MP
The Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, OBE

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
Ivan Lewis, Esq, MP

Home Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. John Reid, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety—Tony McNulty, Esq, MP
Minister for Criminal Justice and Offender Management—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Scotland of Asthal, QC
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality—Liam Byrne, Esq, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Joan Ryan, MP
Vernon Coaker, Esq, MP
Gerry Sutcliffe, Esq, MP

International Development—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—Gareth Thomas, Esq, MP

Law Officers' Department—
ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Goldsmith, QC
SOLICITOR-GENERAL—Mike O'Brien, QC, MP
ADVOCATE-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND—The Lord Davidson of Glen Cova, QC

Leader of the House of Commons—
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND LORD PRIVY SEAL—The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—

Northern Ireland—
SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Peter Hain, MP
MINISTER OF STATE—
The Rt. Hon. David Hanson, Esq, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Maria Eagle, MP
Paul Goggins, MP
David Cairns, MP

Paymaster General's Office—
PAYMASTER GENERAL—The Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo, MP

Privy Council Office—
LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Amos

Scotland Office—
SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
David Cairns, MP

Trade and Industry—
SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Trade—The Rt. Hon. Ian McCartney, MP
Minister for Industry and the Regions—The Rt. Hon. Margaret Hodge, MP, MBE
Minister for Science and Innovation—Malcolm Wicks, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Jim Fitzpatrick, MP (Minister for Consumer Affairs and Competition Policy)
The Lord Truscott (Minister for Energy)

Transport—
SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP
MINISTER OF STATE—
Dr. Stephen Ladyman, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Gillian Merron, MP
Tom Harris, Esq, MP

Treasury—
PRIME MINISTER, FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY AND MINISTER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE—The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP
CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER—The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP
CHIEF SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms, Esq, MP
PAYMASTER GENERAL—The Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo, MP
FINANCIAL SECRETARY—John Healey, MP
ECONOMIC SECRETARY—Ed Balls, MP
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, MP
LORDS COMMISSIONERS—
Dave Watts, Esq, MP
Alan Campbell, Esq, MP
Kevin Brennan, MP
Frank Roy, Esq, MP
Claire Ward, MP
ASSISTANT WHIPS—
Ian Cawsey, Esq, MP
Steve McCabe, MP
Liz Blackman, MP
Tony Cunningham, MP
Huw Irranca-Davies, MP
Jonathan Shaw, MP
Michael Foster, Esq, MP

Wales Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Peter Hain, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
Nick Ainger, Esq, MP

Work and Pensions—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. John Hutton, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform—Jim Murphy, Esq,
Minister for Pensions Reform—James Purnell, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Anne McGuire, MP
James Plaskitt, Esq, MP
The Lord McKenzie of Luton

Her Majesty's Household—

LORD CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt. Hon. The Earl Peel, GCVO, DL

LORD STEWARD—The Duke of Abercorn, KG

MASTER OF THE HORSE—The Lord Vestey

TREASURER—The Rt. Hon. Bob Ainsworth, MP

COMPTROLLER—The Rt. Hon. Thomas McAvoy, MP

VICE-CHAMBERLAIN—John Heppell, Esq, MP

CAPTAIN OF THE HONOURABLE CORPS OF GENTLEMAN-AT-ARMS—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Grocott

CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMAN OF THE GUARD—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Davies of Oldham

LORDS IN WAITING—The Lord Bassam of Brighton, The Lord Evans of Temple Guiting, CBE

BARONESSES IN WAITING—The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, The Baroness Crawley, The Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, The Baroness Morgan of Drefelin

---

SECOND CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING CHURCH COMMISSIONERS—Sir Stuart Bell, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE SPEAKER—The Rt. Hon. Michael J. Martin, MP

CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS—The Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP

FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS—Mrs. Sylvia Heal, MP

SECOND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS—Sir Michael Lord, MP

CHAIRMEN'S PANEL

David Amess, Janet Anderson, Peter Atkinson, Hugh Bayley, Anne Begg, Joe Benton, John Bercow, Sir John Butterfill, Martin Caton, Christopher Chope, Derek Conway, Frank Cook, John Cummings, Janet Dean, Roger Gale, Mike Hancock, Jimmy Hood, Joan Humble, Eric Illsley, Martyn Jones, Dr. William McCrea, David Marshall, Eric Martlew, Edward O'Hara, Bill Olner, Greg Pope, David Taylor, Mike Weir, Hywel Williams, David Wilshire, Ann Winterton, Sir Nicholas Winterton

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

The Rt. Hon. The Speaker (Chairman), Sir Stuart Bell MP, Nick Harvey, MP, The Rt. Hon. David Maclean, MP, The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Theresa May, MP, The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP

SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION—Andrew Kennon

ASSISTANT SECRETARY—Jenny McCullough

ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Theresa May, MP (Chairman), Nick Harvey, MP, Sir Thomas Legg, KCB, QC, David Taylor, FCA

SECRETARY OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE—Tracey Garratty

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Malcolm Jack, PhD (Chief Executive), Helen Irwin (Clerk of Committees, Department of the Clerk of the House), Peter Grant Peterkin, CB, OBE (Serjeant at Arms), John Pullinger (Librarian), Andrew Walker (Director of Finance and Administration), Lorraine Sutherland (Editor of the Official Report), Sue Harrison (Director of Catering Services), Joan Miller (Director of Parliamentary ICT)

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT—Robert Twigger

SPEAKER'S SECRETARY—Angus Sinclair

SPEAKER'S COUNSEL—John Vaux

SPEAKER'S CHAPLAIN—Rev. Canon Robert Wright

MEDICAL ADVISER TO THE SPEAKER—Dr. Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst. RCOG

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR STANDARDS—Sir Philip Mawer

PARLIAMENTARY SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR—Peter Mason

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 12 March 2007

DEFENCE

Kirkcudbright Training Area

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The Ministry of Defence regularly conducts environmental surveys at the Kirkcudbright Training Area in order to assess the impact of depleted uranium test firings on the terrestrial and marine environments and has been under remit to place copies of the annual survey reports in the Library of the House. Unfortunately, due to an administrative error this was not done. This error has now been rectified and the reports have been placed in the Library of the House.

Deterrent White Paper

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I have reproduced below the text of my letter to the Chairman of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. I have also placed a copy of the letter and annexe in the Library of the House and copies are also available in the Vote Office. The letter and annexe form the Government's initial response to the Committee report on the Deterrent White Paper.

"I was very grateful that your Committee was able to publish its report on the recent White Paper on the Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent in good time before the debate and vote on 14 March. This will be of great benefit to MPs as they consider the issues in the coming week. With your agreement, I am also making this letter public prior to the debate by means of a written ministerial statement. We will of course respond fully to the report in the usual way in due course but I aim to address here the majority of issues raised in the Committee's report and to clarify some minor points.

First, the table of future decision-making at paragraph 184 broadly accords with our assessment, although we would not be so definitive on the year in which the contract to build the first new SSBN would be placed. Also, and as set out in the exchange of letters between the US President and the Prime Minister, we would not at this stage wish to rule out that the Trident D5 missile might be further extended, beyond the early 2040s. Finally, Table 4 states that France maintains three deterrent systems, whereas in fact they only retain two—submarine launched ballistic missiles and air-launched cruise missiles.

I would also wish to register three detailed points:

i. It would be helpful to clarify Table 8 on costs and funding. The entries under "Decommissioning costs" are included elsewhere within the estimates: they are not in addition to the other figures.

ii. There is an inaccuracy in Table 1 which is repeated in the second bullet of paragraph 9. We have said that the one submarine normally on deterrent patrol carries up to 48 warheads. We have also said that the number of missiles on that submarine is up to 16. But the 1998 Strategic Defence Review did not limit the number of warheads to be carried per missile to three and neither is that constraint imposed now.

iii. Paragraphs 89 and 90 imply that NATO has a policy of first use of nuclear weapons. This is not true.

As for the UK, NATO's policy is to maintain ambiguity by not ruling in or ruling out the first use of nuclear weapons.

More detailed responses to your conclusions and recommendations are set out in the attached annexe."

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Treaties of Rome (50th Anniversary)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): On 25 March, the European Union celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome. This is an important opportunity to mark the achievements of the EU. It is also is a key moment to look ahead to the new challenges and opportunities of the global age, and how the EU can deliver for its citizens in the next 50 years. On major cross-border challenges such as terrorism, climate change, energy security, economic competition, migration or organised crime, the EU plays a vital role. These are the issues that the Government put to the top of the EU's agenda during our presidency in 2005 and on which we are working successfully with partners to drive forward results. In this 50th Anniversary year, the Government will therefore continue to support a range of activities to raise awareness and engage the public in debate on key challenges and the EU's role in helping to address them.

As part of our celebrations to mark this significant anniversary, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) and the British Council will launch later this month a major year-long initiative called "Learning Together" to promote partnerships between UK schools and schools in other EU countries. Information will be made available to all schools across the UK about the range of opportunities available for schools to develop learning partnerships with European counterparts, including through EU programmes such as Comenius and e-Twinning. The initiative will ensure that relevant information and materials are made easily available to teachers. It will assist teachers and heads already in school partnerships to share their experience with other schools. This will help schools that have not previously taken part in international activities to get involved.

International partnerships and exchanges offer young people exciting opportunities, and can introduce international elements into a wide range of relevant curriculum subjects. "Learning Together" will also contribute to the Government's goal, outlined in the 2004 DFES International Strategy "Putting the World into World-Class Education", of enabling every English school and college to establish a sustainable partnership with an international partner.

A wide range of other events will be taking place in the UK for the 50th Anniversary. For example, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), Manchester United and the European Commission

have organised a charity friendly football match between Manchester United and a Europe XI team. The "50 years in Europe and 50 years of Europe" match on 13 March will celebrate both the 50th Anniversary of the EU and the 50th anniversary of Manchester United's participation as the first English team to play in UEFA's European club competition. The University Association for Contemporary European Studies will host a conference at the FCO, entitled "Reflections on European Integration - 50 Years of the Treaty of Rome" on 23-24 March. And the European Movement in association with the Federal Trust and Chatham House will host a conference "Europe, the next 50 years" on 22 March.

At EU level, Heads of State and Government will mark the Anniversary at an informal meeting in Berlin on 25 March, and there will be an accompanying political declaration. Other EU-level events over the Anniversary weekend include a programme of cultural festivities in Berlin being organised by the German presidency, cultural events and a symposium in Brussels, and a Youth Summit in Rome.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent Monitoring Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): I have received the Fourteenth Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report was made under Article 5(1) of the International Agreement which established the Commission, and is their third of four reports on the security normalisation programme. I have considered the content of the Report and am today bringing it before Parliament. I have placed copies in the Library of the House.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Commission assesses that the commitments made by the Government in the security normalisation programme have been met. Commitments made in the areas of military support to the police, the police estate, police patrolling, and the repeal of counter-terrorist legislation particular to Northern Ireland have all been met thus far. I am satisfied that the security normalisation programme remains appropriate and manageable.

I am also encouraged that the IMC remain of the view that PIRA is firmly committed to the political path and that the organisation does not pose a threat relevant to security normalisation. The IMC have concluded that the organisation is not engaged in terrorist activity and the leadership continues to encourage members to undertake political or community activity. There have been further positive changes in the security context in Northern Ireland resulting from the developments at the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis on 28 January 2007 which pledged support for policing and the rule of law. This is the eighth IMC report since the IRA announced its armed campaign had ended in July 2005, each one progressively confirming delivery of commitment promised then, including driving criminality out of the organisation.

Conversely, dissident republicans remain committed to terrorism and continue to engage in terrorist activity. The IMC have reported that although dissident republican organisations do not have the capacity to mount a serious and sustained campaign, they pose a continuing threat to both the security forces and the wider community.

In terms of loyalist paramilitaries, the IMC conclude that although they are actively engaged in violence and other forms of serious crime, they do not pose a problem for security normalisation. There is evidence of senior figures seeking to lead the organisation away from crime. This is to be welcomed, but there is more to be done.

I am grateful to the Commissioners for the detailed analysis contained in this report. I anticipate their final report on the programme in September which will review the implementation of the programme as a whole.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 13 March 2007

DEFENCE

AFPRB Re-Appointments

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to announce that I have re-appointed Mrs. Alison Gallico, Professor Derek Leslie and Air Vice-Marshal Ian Stewart as members of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body for a second three-year term, commencing March 2008. All three appointments have been conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance on appointments to public bodies.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Ministerial Meeting (Heidelberg)

The Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Bill Rammell): I attended the meeting which was chaired by the German Education and Research Minister, Dr Annette Schavan. The meeting focused on two areas for discussion: the contribution education policy can make to promote the acceptance and dissemination of shared European values; and a second discussion on the theme "Making Lifelong Learning a Reality for All" which focused on developing pre-primary education and adult learning.

Representatives of about 40 countries attended (the EU-27, EEA and the Western Balkans).

The overall discussion on European values was wide ranging, with a number of member states citing active citizenship, the importance of language learning, and mobility as contributions education can make to Europe, as well as the more general values of freedom, respect and tolerance. I used my intervention to warn against trying to define a set of common European values to be included in a curriculum, as everyone holds different views. I made it clear that Education and Curriculum are national not EU competencies. There was general consensus in the discussion on adult learning and early childhood education, with all speakers agreeing that these formed important parts of lifelong learning. I spoke strongly in favour of lifelong learning, referring to the Leitch Review of skills, which shows how adults need to be equipped to perform higher skilled jobs. Extra investment is needed not just from the state, but from the employer and the individual too, and in making the investment in skills, it is important to respond to the needs of business. The chair did not try and summarise the discussion, which had been very general. However, a final communiqué will be prepared by the Presidency and made available to participants.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change Bill

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): The Queen's Speech indicated the Government's intent to bring forward legislation on climate change. I am pleased to announce that today we are publishing a draft Climate Change Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny and public consultation. I am also publishing today a strategy document setting out the broader context for the draft Bill. Copies of both documents have been placed in the House Libraries and are available on my Department's website.

The debate on climate change has shifted from whether we need to act to how much we need to do by when, and the economic implications of doing so. The time is therefore right for the introduction of a strong legal framework in the UK for tackling climate change. The draft Climate Change Bill is the first of its kind in any country.

The Government have shown consistent leadership in the field of climate change by setting bold targets and pursuing ambitious policies. We are committed to securing a strong multilateral agreement beyond 2012 and, within the EU, move to a low-carbon economy over time. At home, we have already shown progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining economic growth, and are set to almost double our target under the Kyoto Protocol.

This Bill provides a legal framework to manage future emissions. It provides a clear, credible and long-term framework that will provide greater clarity and confidence for businesses and individuals to plan and invest in delivering the changes needed to move to a low carbon economy. It will demonstrate leadership through example—a vital factor in helping to secure future international agreements.

In summary the Bill:

makes challenging carbon dioxide reduction targets for 2020 and 2050 legally binding;

introduces a system of 'carbon budgeting' capping emissions over five-year periods—with three budgets set ahead to help businesses plan and invest with increased confidence;

creates a new independent body to advise on the setting of carbon budgets and to report to Parliament on progress;

contains enabling powers to make future policies to control emissions quicker and easier to introduce; and

introduces a new system of Government reporting to Parliament including on climate change adaptation policies.

Taken together these measures create a coherent framework that will ensure we achieve reductions in emissions through domestic and international action whilst maintaining a strong and growing economy and high levels of social welfare.

The Government look forward to receiving a wide range of views on its proposals. We aim to introduce the final Bill to Parliament in autumn this year.

The accompanying strategy document sets out how the draft Bill fits into the Government's broader strategy for tackling climate change. It highlights some key announcements coming up in the next few weeks and months which will be central to the Government's strategy —in particular the Energy White Paper, the Waste Strategy and the Planning White Paper. And it sets out the broader international context, where the UK will continue to press for action through the EU, the G8 and the UN— recognising that only collective action can ultimately solve this unique global challenge.

Local Authority Fees and Charges Scheme

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Charges to cover the costs of local enforcing authorities in regulating processes which are subject to Part I of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Local Air Pollution Control (LAPC)) were introduced in April 1991. Interim charges for installations which are subject to the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 (Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) and Local Authority - Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC)) were introduced in August 2000.

With the approval of the Treasury, and following consultation with local authority associations and industry, I have made revised schemes in respect of the Environmental Protection Act and in respect of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act. The schemes specify the scale of fees and charges to take effect from 1 April 2007.

For LAPC, LAPPC and LA-IPPC fees and charges for 2007-08 there will be an increase of between 2.37 per cent. and 2.86 per cent. for all subsistence fees and by 2.11 per cent. for all other charges. There is also an increase in the application charge for standard Part B and A(2) installations by £1,058 and for reduced fee installations by £63 in cases where existing operators, who have been operating without a permit, subsequently apply for a permit.

The basis of these increases and the risk-based scheme is set out in the regulatory impact assessment which is available on the DEFRA website at the following website address: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/localauth/fees-risk/fees.htm.

Some minor amendments to the schemes have also been made in the light of consultation with local authorities and industry.

Copies of the schemes have been placed in the House Libraries.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Corston's Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): On 28 March 2006 my predecessor made a Statement to announce that my noble Friend Baroness Jean Corston had agreed to undertake a "Review of Women in the Criminal Justice System with Particular Vulnerabilities". I am delighted that Baroness Corston's report is being published today and wanted to make a statement to welcome her report and to give an undertaking that the Government will now give serious and detailed consideration of the issues it raises and the recommendations it makes for change.

The Government invited Baroness Corston to conduct this independent review following the tragic series of deaths of six women at Styal prison in 2002-03. The purpose was to look at the measures in place to ensure that we are doing everything possible for women who come into contact with the criminal justice system who have particular vulnerabilities, such as mental health problems, drug addiction, or histories of abuse. The scope of the Review was, therefore, very wide and considered the services and interventions available to such women on each occasion they come into contact with the criminal justice system, and also to those women at risk of offending.

I would like to thank Baroness Corston for producing such a comprehensive and thought-provoking report and I welcome the honesty and directness with which she addressed her remit and the recommendations she makes for more to be done. Her report tackles some of the most difficult, complex and entrenched issues and provides a valuable insight into the reality of the problems faced, and presented, by many women offenders.

I am particularly grateful for the support and assistance that Baroness Corston received from all those who contributed to the Review, especially the families sadly bereaved by the deaths at Styal and other prisons and women offenders themselves who have spoken so powerfully about their experiences. I would also like to thank the voluntary organisations who gave their valuable time and resources to support the review.

The 43 recommendations made are wide-ranging and propose action by a number of different Government Departments and other organisations to address together the complex and multiple needs of women both in the criminal justice system and at the risk of offending. These recommendations will be carefully explored with all the Departments and agencies concerned and the Government will develop a detailed response and set out an agreed way forward.

Baroness Corston also makes some overarching recommendations for how the management of women in the criminal justice system should be co-ordinated across Government. I agree that, in order to drive forward this important work, it is necessary to ensure that there is high level commitment and effective inter-departmental working. We will, therefore, look carefully at what mechanisms and governance arrangements would be possible to achieve this and I will discuss this with my ministerial colleagues.

Baroness Corston's report also highlights the work and initiatives that are already being taken forward to tackle issues for women offenders and ensure that their needs are met, in a system that has primarily been developed in response to the majority of male offenders. She refers in particular to the Women's Offending Reduction Programme and the Together Women Programme, which is using an injection of Government funding to test out how a more integrated

community-based approach can effectively tackle the multiple needs of women and reduce the use of custody for those women who do not present a significant risk and do not need to be held in prison. She also highlights the importance of the Gender Duty, which comes into force in April 2007, in supporting this agenda.

In developing the detailed response, we will consider how the lessons learnt and recommendations in Baroness Corston's report can be used to build on the work already underway.

I commend this report to anyone with an interest in, or working with, women in the criminal justice system. I know that it will be an invaluable resource in taking forward our agenda to tackle the issues that can lead women into crime and avoid the damaging effects that this can have on women and their families.

HEALTH

Modernising Medical Careers

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): In my written ministerial statement of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 131-132ws, I set out the Department's plan for an immediate review of the first round of the new national recruitment and selection process for doctors in postgraduate training.

As part of the Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) reforms of postgraduate medical training, new specialty training programmes will be introduced in August 2007. To support this, a new national recruitment and selection process was introduced this year, facilitated by the on-line Medical Training Application Service (MTAS). This process sets out national recruitment and selection criteria, documentation and standards—replacing the countless local appointment processes that had previously been in place.

Our aim, of course, is to ensure that we recruit the right people for the right jobs for the benefit of the National Health Service, its patients and its staff. As a result, the new arrangements were developed with the help of the medical Royal Colleges, trainee doctors and others. We will continue to work with them to ensure that trainee doctors are properly supported and fairly treated, and that the NHS is able to train and recruit the best doctors for the future.

Doctors have been applying for their preferred specialty training programme since 22 January 2007 and interviews have already begun. A large number of posts will not be filled in the first round and we have stressed to those interviewing in round one that they should not consider appointing unless they are absolutely satisfied with the calibre of candidates.

While the Department believes this will deliver a fair and transparent appointments process, it is clear that there have been concerns about the selection process, and that the process as a whole has created a high degree of insecurity amongst applicants and, indeed, more widely in the profession. The review was therefore commissioned to analyse what had gone well and what needed to be improved with a view to establishing greater confidence in the process.

The review is independent, being led by Professor Neil Douglas, Vice-President of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Members of the review group include representatives of the Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association, the four United Kingdom health Departments and employers.

The review group met on 7 and 9 March to agree immediate action, and will continue its work throughout March.

The review group decided that round one should continue, but recommended immediate steps to strengthen the interview process, including allowing applicants to provide CVs and portfolios to support their applications. These steps have been communicated to the deans and we have written to every applicant. The information is also on the MMC and MTAS websites.

As a result, some junior doctors who have expressed fears that they have been overlooked in the first round, will be given the opportunity to have their application form reviewed by a trained medical adviser from a postgraduate deanery. Successful candidates will then be given an interview.

In addition, significant changes will be made to improve selection in the second round. This will include changes to the application form and the scoring system. The revised approach will now be tested with junior doctors, selectors, deanery recruitment teams and employers, and agreed with the medical Royal Colleges, postgraduate deans, trainee and consultant representatives and employers before it is introduced.

The review group has also recommended that further advice and information should be made available as quickly as possible for applicants. The Department has agreed that this will include:

information about competition ratios by specialty, entry level and geography;

the process and timetable for making applications in the second round plus generic guidance about what panels will be looking for;

generic feedback on how applicants can improve their applications for the second round;

information about sources of support for applicants; and

enhanced frequently asked questions on the MTAS website, building on feedback from the first round.

This will be done as soon as possible.

I am very grateful to Professor Douglas and his colleagues for their continuing work on the Review Group. We will publish the group's final report once it is completed.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Irish Language Legislation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Maria Eagle): In the St. Andrews agreement, Government made a commitment to introduce an Irish Language Bill for Northern Ireland reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and to work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language. My Department issued a consultation paper on Irish language legislation on 13 December 2006 with a

closing date of 2 March 2007. The consultation attracted a significant number of responses. Of the 668 substantive responses received, 625 supported the introduction of legislation. In addition 1376 postcards supporting legislation were received by my Department and an advertisement placed in the press by the Irish language group, POBAL, attracted 800 signatures. My Department also received a petition from POBAL with 2,500 signatures.

The consultation showed a pronounced divergence of views across the communities in Northern Ireland about the benefits of Irish language legislation. In addition, during the course of the consultation the suggestion was made that the process would be more meaningful if the consultation was based on draft legislation. My Ministerial colleagues and I see merit in this proposal and today we are publishing a further consultation on Irish language legislation with draft indicative clauses.

This further consultation will last for 12 weeks, closing on 5 June 2007.

TRANSPORT

Seafarers

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): Currently, UK law permits employers or principals to remunerate seafarers differently on grounds of nationality, if they applied for their employment or were engaged for it outside Great Britain. The European Commission has asked the Government to investigate the legality of this practice under European Law.

A consultation on section 9 of the Race Relations Act 1976, has today been launched. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Mesothelioma Claims

The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Mr. Jim Murphy): On 20 July 2006, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (John Hutton) announced interim measures to speed up current claims handling for mesothelioma sufferers. He also confirmed that we would put in place a long-term solution.

We committed to having a full dialogue and invited comments from all interested parties. Initial views were sought on ideas for improving support for those with mesothelioma, both by improving the systems for dealing with these claims, and the better focusing of Government support. This process has been very constructive, with many thoughtful responses and helpful ongoing dialogue.

A Summary of Responses to that consultation was published on 1 March and is available at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/iidb/mesothelioma-cases-consultation-report.pdf/

We know that nearly all mesotheliomas occur as a result of occupational or environmental exposure to asbestos—a legacy of our country's industrial past.

Today I announce that we are committing, subject to legislative approval, to ensure that everyone with mesothelioma—irrespective of their employment history—can claim a payment as those under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 ("the 1979 Act"). This will mean that once mesothelioma is diagnosed, every sufferer should have early access to a substantial payment, normally within six weeks of diagnosis, providing a claim is made immediately.

We intend to achieve this by:

Continuing payments from the 1979 Act to all those who currently receive payments; these will remain at existing levels.

Introducing a compensation recovery process so that payments under the 1979 Act are recovered if a civil compensation claim is subsequently successful, in order to prevent double provision and continue with the policy line that the "polluter pays".

Introducing compensation payments similar to those from the 1979 Act to those people who do not currently receive payments from the 1979 Act. These will initially be at a rate commensurate with what can be afforded out of projected compensation recovery amounts.

Increasing these latter amounts to match those paid to others under the 1979 Act as funds allow.

We are holding a Mesothelioma Summit today to begin to make these changes a reality.

We are also continuing the essential work that is ongoing to speed up the full compensation payments due to many sufferers and their families through the civil claims process, and I am confident that this, too, is already leading to improvements for sufferers. Furthermore, we will look at the state benefit scheme so that the claims process is streamlined to provide an improved service to our customers.

We will continue to work with our partners to ensure that these outcomes are delivered as soon as possible.

Maritime Labour Convention

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference 2006 adopted a new Convention - Maritime Labour Convention.

I have today published and laid a White Paper entitled International Labour Conference, Proposed action on a Convention adopted at the 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference 2006.

Copies of the White Paper will be available from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 14 March 2007

DEFENCE

Far Eastern Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): On 19 July my predecessor, the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson), announced the publication of an independent report on the errors made in administering the Government's ex-gratia payment scheme for former far east prisoners of war and civilian internees. The report prepared by Mr. David Watkins was based on a detailed and thorough investigation of how inconsistent criteria came to be used in deciding payments to former civilian internees; this included consultation with the key affected parties. At the time of its publication, the Government welcomed the report and made clear that they would take time to consider further the detail of the recommendations.

In responding to the report, the Ministry of Defence has consulted with the other Departments responsible both for developing and implementing the scheme in 2000-01, and for now providing guidance on the development of new policy. We have also consulted with the representative organisation for civilian internees, ABCIFER, and with the parliamentary ombudsman. The report made some 13 recommendations. Steps had already been taken since 2000 that address many of the shortcomings. These occurred quite independently, as part of the Government's work on better regulation and better policy making. Nevertheless, the recent reshaping of the FEPOW scheme in particular was able to benefit from the emerging recommendations and we are doing work to take them into account in the wider context of a wider review of the Department's guidance on policy making.

I have today placed in the Library of the House our detailed response to David Watkins' recommendations.

I would like to thank Mr. Watkins for his thorough investigation and comprehensive report and to acknowledge the major role played by the parliamentary ombudsman and Public Administration Select Committee in scrutinising the administration of the scheme and helping us to identify and resolve the errors within it. Finally, I would like to give credit again to Ron Bridge, the chairman of ABCIFER, for the enormous amount of painstaking work he has put into the process.

RAF Headquarters

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to announce that, on 1 April, the RAF's Personnel and Training Command and Strike Command will merge to form a single Air Command, with its headquarters at RAF High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire. The creation of a single command, with a single fully integrated headquarters, will better equip the RAF to provide a coherent and co-ordinated single air focus to the other services, MOD Head Office, the Permanent Joint Headquarters and the rest of MOD.

Over the past five years the RAF has undertaken a significant amount of restructuring to improve delivery, reduce bureaucracy and eliminate waste. This has centred on force structure adjustments, estate rationalisation and logistics transformation. One element of this work focused on headquarters rationalisation and resulted in the collocation of Headquarters Personnel and Training Command and Headquarters Strike Command at RAF High Wycombe in October 2006.

The success of this work, which resulted in a reduction of some 1,000 posts across the two command headquarters and annual savings of some £23 million, has enabled these resources to be better directed towards the delivery of support to the front line. The next step in this work is the creation of a single Air Command which reflects the continued commitment of the Government to ensuring that resources are focused on the front line. The recent draw down of personnel for collocation means, however, that the creation of a single Air Command is unlikely to lead to any manpower reductions.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE)

The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety (Mr. Tony McNulty): Last July the Home Secretary announced his intention to review the criminal justice system to ensure that there was the correct balance in favour of the law-abiding majority and the victim, and to ensure that offenders are properly and effectively punished.

The police service is the point of entry to the criminal justice system and we must have proportionate and balanced powers to allow the investigation of crime and criminality and sufficient enforcement powers to deal with those who break the law.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 was introduced to standardise and professionalise police work. It provides a core framework of police powers and safeguards around stop and search, arrest, detention, investigation, identification and interviewing suspects.

However, PACE has been subject to continued change since it was first introduced. There is now a need for rationalisation. We know from stakeholders and practitioners that PACE has become unduly complex and bureaucratic.

That is why the Government are announcing today the formal launch of the review of PACE. This is a major and significant programme of work examining

one of the fundamental statutes of our criminal justice system. The review will look to examine how we can:

- Re-focus the investigation and evidence gathering process on serving the needs of the victim and the witness
- Reduce unnecessary bureaucracy
- Help tackle re-offending
- Raise police efficiency and effectiveness
- Increase the ability for police officers to be engaged in operational frontline activities

Rather than set out detailed ideas we may have, we are inviting stakeholders, practitioners and the public to let us know what they consider needs to be changed, amended or introduced.

Based on the results of that exercise we will discuss the findings from the public consultation through bilateral meetings, group meetings and forums with stakeholders and practitioners.

When that exercise is completed around the end of 2007, we will then put the final proposals back out on public consultation. That is expected around spring 2008.

I very much hope and welcome constructive proposals and suggestions on what we can do to help make sure that victims and witnesses are at the heart of the system and that their interests are paramount.

TRANSPORT

Highways Agency

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have received a report from Mike Nichols, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Nichols Group, on the Highways Agency major roads programme.

In July 2006 the Highways Agency advised me of increases in its cost estimates for schemes in the Targeted Programme of Improvements (TPI). I was concerned that these estimates could be unreliable, since in the majority of cases costs had not been finally agreed with contractors. I therefore commissioned Mike Nichols to undertake an immediate review, with the following terms of reference:

> "To review the Highways Agency's approach to cost estimating and project management, and to make recommendations, including on how the Agency should best assess, monitor and report on risks to its cost estimates."

Mike Nichols has now delivered his report to me. He has confirmed that estimates have increased above initial forecasts, largely on schemes which are not yet in construction. The biggest single factor is higher than expected inflation in construction prices. He notes that estimating is inherently difficult for schemes with expenditure spreading over 10 or more years ahead, and that the majority of the forward programme by value is at stages of development when estimates are inevitably uncertain. Importantly, he has made it clear that he is not saying that the Agency is paying more than it should do for its schemes; rather, the main concern is future delivery.

He has made a number of recommendations for improvements in the development and management of schemes, so that the large forward programme of investment can be successfully managed. He has suggested restructuring the roads programme into phases; improvements to the governance arrangements between the Department and the Agency; and improvements the Agency should make in estimating, risk management, procurement and delivery capability. I accept his recommendations and will ensure that priority is given to their implementation.

The Nichols report will make a valuable contribution to the successful development and delivery of the forward programme. I am placing copies of the report in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pensions Regulator

The Minister of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): I am pleased to announce that there will be no increase in the General Levy rates for the Pensions Regulator for 2007-08. Rates will remain at the 2005-06 level as set out in the table below.

The General Levy meets the cost of the Pensions Regulator whose objective is to protect the benefits of members of occupational and private pension schemes; to reduce risks that lead to calls on the Pension Protection Fund and to promote and improve understanding of, the good administration of work based pension schemes. It also meets the cost of the Pensions Ombudsman and the Pensions Advisory Service which provide scheme members with help, advice and information.

General Levy rates for 2007-08

Number of Members	*Occupational Pension Levy*	*Personal /Stakeholder Pension Levy*
2-11	£24.00 per scheme	£10.40 per scheme
12-99	£2.50 per member	£1.00 per member
100-199	Max (£1.80 per member, £250)	Max (0.70 per member, £100)
1,000-4,999	Max (£1.40 per member, £1,800)	Max (0.60 per member, £700)
5,000-9,999	Max (£1.06 per member, £7,000)	Max (0.40 per member, £3,000)
10,000+	Max (0.74 per member, £10,600)	Max (0.30 per member, £4,000)

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 15 March 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Control of Advertisements

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): The Secretary of State has today laid Regulations to control outdoor advertisements in England. A circular is being published to accompany the Regulations and a Regulatory Impact Assessment has been prepared.

This coincides with the launch of a database on unlawful advertisements and fly-posting, which will help local planning authorities to take enforcement action against those who flout the law.

The new Regulations update and improve the current arrangements for controlling outdoor advertisements and make the legislation more responsive to rapidly changing forms of advertising. The circular explains the legislation and provides guidance for local planning authorities and businesses to help ensure that the system operates effectively.

Copies of the Regulations, the circular and the Regulatory Impact Assessment will be placed in the House Libraries or may be obtained via the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/staging/index.asp?id=1506099 and the Office of Public Sector Information website at www.opsi.gov.uk

The unlawful advertisements and fly-posting database is launched today. The database will enable enforcement officers within local planning authorities to input and extract details of prosecutions and formal cautions against companies and individuals who have unlawfully displayed advertisements alongside motorways and trunk roads. The database will also include this information about those guilty of fly-posting.

This service will help local planning authorities to build a case for prosecution within their own administrative areas. It will also help authorities have an idea of a company's history and assist them in tracking down persistent offenders. It could assist the courts when awarding costs and ensuring that the fine imposed reflects the seriousness of the offence and takes into account whether the person found guilty is a first time or persistent offender. This in turn should help to reduce the number of unlawful advertisements displayed alongside motorways and trunk roads and reduce the incidence of fly-posting.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

School Balances (1999-00 to 2005-06)

The Minister for Schools (Jim Knight): The Department for Education and Skills has today published information on the end of financial year revenue balances of all local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools for the years for which information is available: 1999-00 to 2005-06.

The information is taken from local authorities' published section 52 outturn statements for the years in question but presents this in summary form. Copies of the information have been placed in the Libraries and will be available on the Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=58.

The Department is publishing this information to inform debate on the effective management of school resources to ensure the best outcomes for the taxpayer's considerable investment in schools.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Bill White Paper

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): I am pleased to announce that I am today laying before Parliament and publishing Government White Paper Command 7047, "A Sea Change", a Marine Bill White Paper.

In 2001, the Prime Minister committed the UK Government to new measures to improve marine conservation, including a series of Marine Stewardship Reports. The first of these reports, "Safeguarding Our Seas", jointly published a year later by the UK Government and devolved Administrations, set out the shared vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

"Safeguarding our Seas" also described the Government's strategy for the conservation and sustainable development of the marine environment. Part of that strategy has been to examine how we can streamline regulation for those who make a living from the sea and how we can better protect the marine environment.

The arrangements in place for managing marine activities and protecting marine wildlife and the marine environment are complex and can be confusing and costly for all involved. New activities, changes in technology and a deepening understanding of the seas around us and the way we affect them have also exposed some gaps and limitations in this system. A number of published reports and reviews have shown that as the pressures on our seas increase and change we do not have all the tools we need to fully protect our marine environment or manage the full range of demands that we place on the marine area.

In 2005, we completed an integrated assessment of the "State of Our Seas - Charting Progress". The overall picture that emerged was that UK seas are productive and support a wide range of fish, mammals, seabirds and other marine life. The levels of monitored contaminants and pollution have decreased significantly. However, human activities have resulted in adverse changes to the marine ecosystem and continue to do so. These direct human activities, along with climate change, pose a real threat to the balance and integrity of the marine ecosystem.

This White Paper sets out our plans for legislation that will enable us to take a significant step forward in the way that we manage the activities that take place in the marine area. The changes we are proposing will mean we will be able to obtain best value from the many different uses of our valuable marine resources whilst maintaining and protecting the ecosystems upon which they depend. They will improve the delivery of policies relating to marine activities operating in coastal and offshore waters and to marine natural resource protection.

The principles of sustainable development, good regulation and modern government underpin these proposals. We will simplify existing legislation and streamline administration. We will establish modern and flexible new arrangements and structures that will stand the test of time.

We will introduce a new system of marine planning encompassing all marine activities and providing a strategic approach to the use of marine space and the interactions between its uses. It will clarify our marine objectives and priorities for the future, and direct decision-makers and users towards more efficient, sustainable use and protection of our marine resources.

We will establish a marine licensing system that is more efficient and transparent, simplifying marine licensing processes and providing for a rationalised and more integrated approach. This will deliver better, more consistent licensing decisions more quickly and at less cost to all, through a system that is proportionate and easier to understand and to use.

We will add to existing tools for the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity with a new approach to protected areas for important species and habitats. This will enable us to tackle the deterioration in the state of the UK's marine biodiversity and promote recovery and ensure environmental considerations are at the heart of decision-making processes. They will allow the UK to fully deliver on its vital European and international conservation obligations.

We will modernise inshore fisheries management arrangements and enable a more active approach to managing recreational sea angling. We will also strengthen fisheries enforcement powers and provide for recovery of the costs of fishing vessel licence administration. This will strengthen fisheries and environmental management arrangements so that more effective action can be taken to conserve marine ecosystems and help achieve a sustainable and profitable fisheries sector. Our fisheries proposals will apply in England and in some cases Wales and Northern Ireland.

For the UK Government and Northern Ireland administration we will establish a new Marine Management Organisation to help effectively deliver many marine policies across UK waters. We will incorporate into this new organisation a number of existing Government agencies and functions. This will make a unique contribution to sustainable development by bringing together within a single independent body the delivery of strategic planning, streamlined marine licensing, fisheries management and enforcement, and nature conservation enforcement.

Overall, our proposals will mean less risk, delay and cost to business, increased capability to provide targeted protection to marine life where it is needed, and improved co-ordinated enforcement of the new regime. They will provide an integrated approach to sustainable management, enhancement and use of the marine natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. They will facilitate economic growth in the marine area in a sustainable manner and protect the environment providing us with a marine and coastal environment that can be enjoyed by all.

Marine Fisheries Agency

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): From 1 April, 2007 the Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA) will be taking on additional marine environmental responsibilities, including licensing and consents work from core-DEFRA and licensing of marine aggregate dredging from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

To better reflect the Agency's extended remit to protect and manage the marine environment, the MFA will change its name to the Marine and Fisheries Agency as of 1 April, 2007.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council - 15 February 2007

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The Justice and Home Affairs Council was held on 15 February 2007 in Brussels. Baroness Scotland and I attended on behalf of the UK.

The German presidency opened the Council with adoption of the 'A' points list which was approved apart from point 9, a mandate to open negotiations on the exchange of passenger name records. The items adopted included a regulation establishing an EU agency for fundamental rights, and a report on the extent of trafficking of human beings during the 2006 world cup in Germany and the measures taken by Germany to deal with this.

The presidency hosted an informal dinner for Ministers the evening before the Council, at which Ministers discussed how best to prepare the post-2009 JHA programme. The discussion built on the ideas put forward by the German presidency at the informal JHA Council in Dresden; notably, the idea of setting up an informal group of the next six presidencies and the Commission to co-ordinate this work. Member states generally welcomed the idea of preliminary work by such a group to assist in the thorough preparation of any future work programme, while recognising that this would be without prejudice to any formal discussions and decisions in the Council at the appropriate time. The UK secured agreement that the group should include a common law expert, that it

should adopt transparent working methods to allow contributions from those outside the group, and should report regularly.

One of the principal items considered by JHA Ministers last week was the exchange of policing information between member states in the context of incorporating the Prüm treaty into the EU legal order. This will facilitate the identification and subsequent exchange of information on fingerprints, vehicle registration and DNA. The Council mandated experts to prepare a Council decision for adoption in the coming months which will transfer the third pillar (police co-operation and data sharing) elements of that treaty into the EU, subject to deletion of a provision on measures in the event of immediate danger. I welcomed this approach and the importance of effective exchange of information more generally. I noted however that in taking forward this work further consideration needed to be given to the detail of the data protection regime and that sufficient time would be required for national Parliaments to scrutinise the proposal.

The Council also secured a general approach on a framework decision which will provide for the exchange of prisoners between member states so that custodial sentences can be served in the prisoner's home state, close to family and friends. Once finalised and implemented we believe that this will benefit both member states and our citizens in aiding the re-integration into societies of our prisoners. While participating in this general approach the UK maintained its parliamentary scrutiny reserve. Once adopted the Government expect this to reduce numbers of foreign prisoners in UK jails.

On migration there was discussion on a common approach to partnership agreements with countries of origin and transit. It was suggested that these agreements should include information on legal migration channels, national quotas, circular migration and capacity building, in exchange for readmission, safeguarding human rights and a commitment to manage migration. There was general agreement from member states on this approach although a majority were against the inclusion of quotas. The UK stressed the need for a flexible approach, highlighting a points-based system as an alternative to quotas. The Council noted that the first of the Commission's proposals on legal migration would be expected in May.

There was a lunchtime discussion on the framework decision on racism and xenophobia. It is clear that there is a commitment to reaching agreement on this measure and member states supported the text as a basis for further work. However, the UK, along with a number of other members states, could not accept article 8(2) on mutual legal assistance, which we argued had been superseded by the European evidence warrant. One member state argued for the retention of this article. The presidency indicated that it would seek agreement to the text at the April JHA Council.

In the Mixed Committee the Council took note that the SISOne4all project was running on time. The global rescheduling of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) was also noted. The focus on SISOne4all has meant that there will be a six-month delay to the SIS II programme; the SIS II operational date for those member states already connected to the SIS 1+ will be mid-December 2008.

There was support for reaching an early agreement on the regulation establishing rapid border intervention teams, with the presidency hoping to agree it at the April JHA Council. Baroness Scotland stressed our support for Frontex, despite our exclusion from the regulation and offered to make available some equipment and expertise.

The increasing numbers of Moldovan applications for Romanian nationality was discussed under AOB, the Commission asking member states to participate in the common consular centre initiatives. This question will be discussed further at senior official level.

Finally, as another AOB item, the Commission presented their proposal for a directive setting criminal sanctions for environmental crimes. This would oblige member states to treat serious offences against the environment as criminal acts and set minimum sanctions for environmental crimes. Negotiations on this proposal will commence at a working group in March.

Lord Carlile's Report on the Definition of Terrorism

The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety (Mr. Tony McNulty): I am pleased to say that Lord Carlile of Berriew QC has completed his report on the "Definition of Terrorism" and this is being published today. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Prison Service Corporate and Business Plan 2006-07

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): The Prison Service Corporate and Business Plan for 2006-07 (including the previously agreed Key Performance Indicator targets) has been published today. Copies have been placed in the Library.

Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Liam Byrne): The House will be aware that an incident occurred in the early hours of yesterday morning at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre in Oxfordshire.

I would like to first praise the outstanding response of the emergency services and staff from IND and the Prison Service who reacted with great speed and professionalism to quell this disturbance. As a result of their decisive, rapid action the centre is now fully under control and the majority of the centre is still fully operational.

An assessment of the impact of this incident is ongoing, but the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate has reported the following events to me.

At 6.30am on Wednesday 14 March an attempted removal of an immigration detainee in Campsfield House was forcibly resisted. Several other detainees then sought to intervene and obstruct this removal and began to then threaten staff and start fires in the centre.

The emergency services were called and all staff and detainees were moved to the exterior grounds within the centre at around 7am. All of the fires were extinguished swiftly by the emergency services. Prison Service Tornado Units were then deployed to the centre to help restore full control.

There was no risk to public safety during the course of this incident. Throughout the day the perimeter fence remained secure. No detainee was able to abscond from the centre.

No serious injuries occurred to staff or detainees within the centre, but seven members of staff and two detainees were taken to hospital suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation. All were subsequently discharged.

Robert Whalley CB, a retired senior civil servant, will extend his investigation into the recent disturbance at Harmondsworth Removal Centre to cover this incident.

Campsfield House holds up to 200 detainees and was operating at near full capacity at the time of the disturbance.

Sixty of the detainees at Campsfield House have been transferred under escort to other parts of the IND detention estate but the other detainees have remained at the centre.

No detainee will be released from either this centre or any other part of the IND estate as a result of the incident.

We cannot and will not tolerate such attempts to deliberately prevent the removal of those who have no legal rights to be in this country.

The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate has therefore been instructed to ensure that removal from the country will continue to be pursued actively in all cases.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Oral Statements

The Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Jack Straw): Following agreement within Government, this is to inform Members of improvements to the process by which notice is given to the House when Ministers plan to make an oral statement.

Wherever notice has already been given to the House via a written ministerial statement, oral or written questions, or elsewhere on the Floor of the House (that is, in debate or at business questions) that an oral statement will be made on a certain date, then it would be helpful to the House for this to be recorded in the House's business papers. Accordingly, from today I have asked for a written notice in such cases to be printed in the "Future Business" section of the Order Paper; and again on the "Order of Business" on the day of the statement.

The Government would retain the current freedom to make statements without prior notice having been given in this way and, if necessary, not to proceed with a statement of which prior notice had been given.

I am grateful to Mr. Speaker, for agreeing to the Order Paper being changed in this way.

PRIME MINISTER

"Strengthening Democracy: Fair and Sustainable Funding of Political Parties"

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I have today laid before both Houses the report by Sir Hayden Phillips entitled "Strengthening Democracy: Fair and Sustainable Funding of Political Parties". Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I welcome Sir Hayden's report. He has negotiated his report with skill and dedication, and for this I am very grateful. I am sure that the other political parties share my gratitude.

The report shows very clearly that there is now the basis for a new agreement on the funding and expenditure of political parties. There are a number of detailed questions which need to be taken forward, through a process of further discussion between the political parties. I hope that following these negotiations, consensus can be reached. I have asked Sir Hayden to chair these further discussions. I believe that they should begin soon and conclude before the summer recess, in order to build a platform for legislation in the next parliamentary session.

The time has come for us to find a new settlement on party funding and expenditure. I have asked my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons to lead these negotiations for the Labour Party. I hope that the leaders of the other main parties will also nominate delegations to join the talks.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Review of the Serious Fraud Office

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"When I announced the re-appointment of Robert Wardle as Director of the Serious Fraud Office in January I indicated that we had agreed we would take the opportunity jointly to commission a thorough external review of the SFO's approach to the investigation and prosecution of the cases with which it deals.

I am today announcing the terms of reference of that review which are:

'In the light of the Government's overall strategy for tackling fraud, and taking into account the relevant recommendations from the fraud review:

To consider the most effective methods for the SFO to use in investigating and prosecuting the serious and complex cases which fall within its remit, with particular reference to practice in overseas jurisdictions; and any related internal organisational or structural issues;

And to make recommendations'.

The review will be led by Jessica de Grazia, a former New York city prosecutor who now resides in the UK, and who has handled many complex cases, both as an investigator and trial advocate".

Fighting Fraud Together - The Government Response to the Fraud Review

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I have today published the Government's formal response to the consultation on the recommendations of the fraud review. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government's response to the fraud review is a key element of our overall strategy for handling fraud, which is estimated to cost the economy £14 billion per annum. Fraud presents a serious threat to the economy, and does real harm to victims and businesses.

The Government are committed to tackling fraud, and together with industry, the public sector and regulators will be taking forward a wide ranging programme to create the building blocks for a truly strategic response to this growing threat.

In doing so, the Government accept the thrust of most of the recommendations of the fraud review. A detailed programme of work is now being established to take this to the next stage.

A priority will be to establish a national fraud strategic authority, which will be the forum for public and private sectors to develop a national strategy for tackling fraud. This will include establishing a mechanism for accurate and regular measurement of the extent of fraud, which is crucial to establishing a long-term solution.

Detailed work will also be taken forward on how best to establish a national fraud reporting centre recommended by the review as a means of taking crime reports from victims and developing intelligence to tackle fraud and organised crime related to fraud. The commissioner of the City of London police will chair a working group to make detailed proposals on the establishment of a national lead force, which will aim to complement existing police force capacity and provide a centre of excellence for complex and serious cases.

The Government will also be taking forward a number of the recommendations made to improve the way the criminal justice system handles fraud-related cases. This will include a study to assess the costs of fraud to the courts and any benefits which can be derived from dealing with more aspects of complex frauds in one jurisdiction.

Finally, the Government will explore the review's recommendation of encouraging early guilty pleas through a safe legal framework which protects defendants' rights but also improves the experience of victims."

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Nuclear Security and Nuclear Safeguards

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): With effect from 1 April 2007, the security activities of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) will be performed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on behalf of the Health and Safety Commission. The operational nuclear safeguards work of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will also be carried out by the HSE with effect from the same date. The staff in both areas will transfer to the HSE with their work.

The aim of these arrangements is to consolidate the safety, security and safeguards activities of the Government in a single organisation, consistent with the thrust of the recommendations of the 2005 Hampton Report, so as to enable more effective and better co-ordinated regulation of the industry, and to enable the more effective deployment of resources. DTI will remain responsible for nuclear safety, security and safeguards policy. The HSE will operate under Memorandums of Understanding agreed with the DTI, one for safeguards and one for security.

East of England Development Agency (EEDA)

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I have decided to appoint the new Board Member listed at annexe A for a period of two years and eight months.

The appointment will begin on 19 March 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2009. This appointment was made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The biographical details of the new appointee are shown at annexe B.

Appointment will commence on 19 March 2007

Annexe A

New Appointment

RDA	Name
East of England Development Agency	Edward Iveagh

Annexe B

Biography

Edward Iveagh has been Chairman of Elveden Farms Ltd since 1992 and has transformed the 22,500 acre Suffolk estate into a multi-faceted, diverse and profitable business. He is a non-executive Director of Burhill Estates, a Golfing and Land Management Company that has developed the concept of quality pay-and-play golf courses across England. He is a non-executive Director of Adventure Forest, a high wire forest adventure operator.

He was Deputy Chairman of Iveagh Trustees for 10 years and is now Director of Arundel Iveagh, a London-based Hedge Fund and Wealth Management operation and is a founding partner of Capital 1, an asset finance vehicle.

He is Chair of the Brecks Tourism Partnership and has been involved in a broad range of charitable initiatives including Chair of Chadacre Agricultural Trust, Patron of The West Suffolk MacMillan Cancer Appeal and Trustee and Chairman of the investment committee of East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Between 1996 and 1999 he was an active Cross-Bench Member of the House of Lords.

He is married and has two young sons.

TRANSPORT

London Underground and National Railways (Security)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Throughout 2006 the Department for Transport undertook a number of trials at stations on London's surface and underground rail networks to study the effectiveness of both existing and new security-related technologies.

These trials were part of a broad package of work being carried out by both the Department and other stakeholders to improve our understanding of operational environments and identify potential

practical and pragmatic solutions for improving the protection of the public at our rail stations.

The first trial of passenger screening technology took place at Paddington station in January 2006 and was followed by further trials at Canary Wharf and Greenford London Underground stations. Trials also took place in August to test the practicalities of deploying portable vehicle access control barriers at major entry points at Waterloo and Victoria stations. All the data and feedback gathered during these trials are now being analysed to inform future judgments.

The next element of work is to conduct a short study of airflow patterns and an assessment of the performance of air monitoring machines within the London Underground environment. This is to increase our knowledge of how potentially toxic substances could be dispersed in such an environment.

The purpose of the study is to gather data within a genuine rail environment. It is not a reaction to any threat increase or a measure to enhance security at this or any other station. All the data and feedback gained will merely help to inform future decisions.

Following consultation with London Underground, St. John's Wood station has been chosen as an appropriate location for the research, with studies commencing in March. Two dates, Sunday March 25 and Sunday April 1, have been identified for the airflow studies. The station will remain open as normal and train services at the station will not be affected. Passengers will not be required to take part and there are no associated health and safety risks.

As is routine in airflow studies, small amounts of sulphur hexafluoride will be used to help monitor the movement of air within the station during operational hours. Sulphur hexafluoride is a non-toxic, odourless gas typically used in tennis balls and for monitoring ventilation systems in buildings.

The UK's surface railway system is a network made up of 2,500 stations and 11,000 miles of track that carries 1 billion passengers a year. London Underground itself has 255 stations, 253 miles of track and carries 976 million passengers every year. The British public understand that providing a 'closed' security system on the rail network is unworkable and that no single security measure is either foolproof or capable of mitigating every threat.

However it is important that we continue to study the operational environment of our networks and both existing and emerging technologies to see whether procedures can be improved. In doing so, we aim to cut down the risks as much as possible whilst still allowing people to go about their day-to-day business.

European Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I will attend the first Transport Council of the German presidency which takes place in Brussels on 22 March.

The Commission will report on the current difficulties on the PPP concession contract negotiations for the Galileo satellite navigation programme and their impact on the overall development of the programme. There has been no recent progress on the negotiations because of internal problems amongst the partners in the consortium. Ministers will discuss the issue and aim to form an opinion on how preparations should proceed for a decision to be taken at the June Council. We remain concerned about the lack of clear and transparent governance in the management of the development programme and will continue to examine the emerging deal very carefully for its justification in terms of value for money, affordability, and risk to the public sector.

The Council will be asked to adopt a mandate authorising the Commission to open negotiations with non-EU countries on their participation in the Galileo Supervisory Authority as Associated Members. The UK is content for the Council to do so.

The Presidency will report on the contribution of the transport sector to the Lisbon Strategy for economic development, with particular emphasis on the interplay of policy on economic growth and climate protection. An exchange of views is envisaged on the Council Conclusions of 19 February on this topic. Ministers will be asked to indicate how the energy efficiency of transport may be improved and what measures might be taken to deal with emissions in rail and maritime transport. This will enable me to reaffirm to the Council the Government's commitment to environmental aims in transport policy.

Linked to this debate on the Lisbon Strategy will be a discussion during lunch of the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. We welcome and support the Commission's legislative proposal and will respond in broad terms to two questions posed by the presidency which cover the application of the emissions cap to aviation and how to deal with third-country airlines.

The Commission will present to the Council the outcome of the latest rounds of negotiations on a proposed EU-US aviation agreement. The Council will be asked to agree on whether the Community should sign the draft agreement.

Following negotiations with Russia on an agreement to end charges for Siberian overflights for EU airlines, the Council will be asked to adopt a Decision on the signature and provisional application of the agreement. The UK strongly welcomes this agreement and will support the draft Decision.

AOB items include Commission presentations on extension of the major trans-European transport axes to neighbouring countries and on the implementation of the SESAR programme for the modernisation of the European air traffic management system.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Independent Living Funds Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): On 3 May 2006 in a written ministerial statement, I announced details of a strategic review of the independent living funds which concluded in January 2007.

I welcome the thorough review of the independent living funds that has been conducted by Melanie

Henwood and Bob Hudson. Their report comes at an important point in the evolution of social care and it is critical that the funds' customers do not lose the valuable support that the funds currently provide.

I recognise the ground-breaking role which the ILFs have played in developing a model of cash for care over the past 19 years and how important their services are to the disabled people who use the funds to enable them to live independently.

The reviewers have recommended that through to 2009-10 the funds should remain in their present form while making considerable improvements. In the longer term however, they recommend that there should be a smooth transition towards full integration within a system of personalised budgets because it is anomalous to retain a separate public body operating in parallel to the mainstream of independent living.

The Government will consider these recommendations and their implications for severely disabled people and for the social care system across the UK, and we aim to publish our initial response to the report before the summer recess.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 19 March 2007

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme has been in force now for just over a year and a half. As is sensible with any new scheme, we have conducted an evaluation of its operation in the first year to identify any emerging issues. The evaluation is now complete and copies of the report are available in the Library of the House as well as on the MOD and Veterans Agency websites. The findings show some positive outcomes from the first year such as simpler, speedier arrangements for claimants and internal dispute procedures that result in fewer cases settled by appeal to the Pensions Appeal Tribunals. The issues identified, such as continuing to raise awareness of the scheme, will be taken forward by officials. The report recommends a fuller assessment of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme after five years of operation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - 19 and 20 March

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): I will be representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. The Welsh Environment, Planning and Countryside Minister, Carwyn Jones, will also attend.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the Commission communication on "Employment in rural areas".

The Council will hold a policy debate on a linked pair of proposals on the common organisation of the market in cereals aimed principally at dealing with the large increase in intervention purchasing of maize: one proposal will deliver extra short-term cash to compensate for high interest charges; the other will seek to overcome the problem by allowing the market to operate freely and abolish the intervention for maize.

The presidency will seek political agreement on the Commission's proposal laying down rules for voluntary modulation in light of the December 2005 European Council future financing agreement for 2007-13. The proposal sets out the terms by which member states can voluntarily modulate from pillar 1 of the Common Agricultural Policy (direct payments) to pillar 2 (rural development). It is hoped that agreement will be reached on voluntary modulation.

There will be a policy debate on the Commission proposal on the common organisation of agricultural markets and agricultural products, based on a presidency questionnaire. The proposal aims to consolidate the existing 21 sector-specific Common Market Organisations into a single regulation, in an effort to streamline and simplify the legal framework.

A number of issues, as follows, will be raised under 'any other business':

The Environment Commissioner will give an update on, the impact the proposed strategy on soil protection would have on agriculture and the need to grant member states further subsidiarity discussed at the January Council.

There will then be written updates from the health and consumer protection Commissioner on avian influenza and the EC-Russian Federation veterinary agreement negotiations.

The presidency will update the Council on the outcomes of two recent conferences: "Fuelling the Future—Renewable Resources" and "Prevention for Health—Nutrition and Physical Activity—A Key to Healthy Living".

The Agriculture Commissioner will then give an update on the WTO agricultural negotiations.

Over lunch, Ministers and the Commission will share experiences gained from the implementation of controls in food chains and discuss ways to further improve these control measures.

TRANSPORT

Light Dues 2007-08

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): Under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, the costs of the three General Lighthouse Authorities in the British Isles are met by light dues levied on ships using ports in British Isles.

I am pleased to announce that light dues rates and the tonnage threshold will remain the same for 2007-08. It is a tribute to the continuing efficiency gains of the GLA that rates have not increased in 14 years.

Last year light dues were cut by 4p per ton, representing a 10 per cent. reduction. I welcomed the industry's assurance at that time that they accepted rates could rise in the future should the general lighthouse fund not be able to meet the cost of essential major capital projects.

It is a significant achievement that two major projects are well under-way—the redevelopment of the Commissioners of Irish Lights depot at Dun Laoghaire and the brand new GLA ships that will come into service later this year. These ongoing improvements will continue to ensure that the GLA provide the best possible service to merchant ships in UK and Irish coastal waters.

Greater London Authority Transport Grant for 2006-07 and 2007-08

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Gillian Merron): The Greater London Authority (GLA) transport grant for 2007-08 has today been determined by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for

Transport at £2,520.5 million, following consultation with the Mayor of London. This is a block resource grant provided by the Government to Transport for London (TfL) to support and improve transport services in London, including London Underground.

This grant determination is based on the Government's five-year settlement for TfL of £2,544 million which was announced in July 2004, and includes a further £10.5 million for road safety partnership funding in London. Some £34 million of capital funding, which was included in the five-year settlement, will now be paid to TfL through a separate grant.

The GLA transport grant for 2006-07 has also been re-determined by my right hon. Friend at £2,390.305 million. This re-determination increases the Government's grant this year to TfL by £1.305 million, reflecting additional funding for scoping work to make TfL's Oyster estate interoperable with ITSO Smartcards of Oyster on National Rail and TfL's urban bus challenge projects in 2006-07.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 20 March 2007

TREASURY

Unclaimed Assets Scheme

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): As announced in the 2005 pre-Budget report, the Government have been working with the banking and building society sector to design an unclaimed assets scheme which both preserves the rights of the individual consumer and at the same time allows these assets to be reinvested in the community. The Government welcomed the commitment from the industry and since then we have been working together to design a scheme.

The Government are today publishing a consultation document outlining a proposed scheme, including details of the banks' and building societies' proposed changes to the banking code and proposals for legislation.

The proposal is made with the support of the British Bankers Association and the Building Societies Association and these organisations have signalled in the foreword to the consultation document their commitment to making the scheme work successfully.

A further consultation document will be released later in the spring to consider the most effective means of distributing the available assets, taking as its basis the statement in the 2005 pre-Budget report that the funds should be reinvested in the community, with a focus on youth services that are responsive to the needs of young people, and also on financial inclusion and capability.

The 2005 pre-Budget report also announced that there will be an option for small locally based financial institutions to focus on these needs in their local communities. These will typically be building societies, often playing an important role in these communities. It is proposed that small locally based financial institutions will be defined by reference to a threshold level of total assets as in practice this indicates both relatively small and local institutions.

In line with previous announcements, it is proposed that banks and building societies will participate in the scheme on a voluntary basis, but the scheme will be backed by legislation to resolve issues concerning financial liability for the participating financial institutions and their customers.

It is proposed that the unclaimed assets scheme will apply to bank and building society accounts where there has been no customer-initiated activity for at least 15 years. On this basis, the banks and building societies estimate that a stock of several hundred million pounds may currently lie unclaimed. They also estimate that a further flow of perhaps tens of millions of pounds may become available each year. These estimates are before the impact of a comprehensive reuniting exercise that banks and building societies will launch in advance of the scheme, building on their existing arrangements to help customers track down their accounts.

It is proposed that unclaimed assets falling within the definition will be transferred to a central reclaim fund. However, for customers the process for reclaiming the money will not change—they need simply to visit their bank or building society, which will repay them as now. The reclaim fund will bear the financial risk for repaying customers who want to reclaim their assets after the introduction of the scheme. Centralising the risk in a single reclaim fund will allow it to be pooled and managed as efficiently as possible. The reclaim fund will need to be managed prudently so that money is available to fund applications for reclaim. Banks and building societies will be responsible for calculating the amounts to be transferred and for handling the interaction with those customers, so customers will not need to have a direct relationship with the reclaim fund. It is proposed that the reclaim fund will be a freestanding body, independent of Government, the banking industry and the distribution mechanism. It could either be an existing body or a new body. The banking industry's representative bodies will take the lead in selecting or setting up the body, which will then be wholly independent.

The reclaim fund will hand over for reinvestment in the community those assets not needed to cover anticipated reclaim requests. The need to manage assets for potential reclaim at a later date in order to protect customers' interests will, of course, mean that the reclaim fund will need to hold back a proportion of the assets it receives from the banks and building societies. As well as effective and prudential management of the fund, it is also proposed that customers' interests will be further safeguarded by access to the Financial Ombudsman Service for any disputes between themselves, the fund, and their bank or building society on these issues, and changes to the banking code will clarify how the banks and building societies will themselves interact with the scheme.

Copies of the consultation document will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Army Regional Command Structure

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): My written ministerial statement of 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 108WS contained an error. The first tiret of the second paragraph should have read:

(1) From April 2007 garrisons should be commanded by the local deployable brigade commander.

Cluster Munitions

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): On 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1WS the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd, (Dr. Howells), set out in a written ministerial statement the UK position on cluster munitions. We confirmed

that we were committed to withdrawing dumb cluster munitions by the middle of the next decade. On 15 December 2006 the Government explained in the other place, *Official Report*, column 1727-70 that we were examining the possibility of withdrawing dumb cluster munitions from service at an earlier date. This assessment is now complete and I am pleased to announce that we are withdrawing dumb cluster munitions from service with immediate effect.

We have considered carefully both military and humanitarian factors, reflecting our duty both to ensure that the armed forces have the capabilities they need to undertake the missions we ask of them, and to strive to reduce civilian casualties to the minimum.

Cluster munitions are legal weapons which have a valid role in modern warfare, particularly against an array of military targets in a defined area. However, they have also given rise to humanitarian concerns because they disperse sub-munitions over an area and those sub-munitions can have a high failure rate. Some cluster munitions address these concerns including through inbuilt self-destructing or self-deactivating mechanisms, reducing the risk of harm to civilians. Dumb cluster munitions do not.

At the moment, our inventory includes two dumb cluster munitions: the RBL 755 aerial delivered cluster munition, and the multiple launch rocket system M26 munition. Both will be withdrawn from service immediately and disposed of. Although withdrawing them represents a theoretical risk to our operational effectiveness, until their direct replacement is in service, there is no current plan to deploy them on operations. I have decided that this is an acceptable risk.

The types of cluster munitions we intend to retain are legitimate weapons with significant military value which, as a result of mitigating features, is not outweighed by humanitarian factors. As with all weapons, our forces' use of them will remain regulated by rules of engagement and internal scrutiny procedures designed to adhere to international law and reflect humanitarian values.

As well as living up to their responsibilities under international law, this decision is part of our wider efforts to reduce civilian casualties and to press other militaries to do the same. We continue to press for wider agreement to ban dumb cluster munitions through the convention on certain conventional weapons (CCW) and complementary initiatives like the Oslo conference on 23 February, where we, alongside other nations, agreed to work towards an international ban in 2008.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Rural Development Programmes

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): I am pleased to announce that on Monday 19 March the European Agriculture Council voted unanimously in favour of a voluntary modulation regulation tabled by the German presidency. The presidency confirmed that the European Parliament has agreed, on the basis of this text and associated declarations, to lift its 20 per cent. reserve on EU rural development budgets for 2007. This means that the way will be clear for all member states to finalise their new rural development programmes.

We were successful in securing our two key objectives for the UK in this negotiation: first, the flexibility to continue to apply voluntary modulation rates on a regional basis; and, secondly, the ability to operate voluntary modulation without a franchise. Obtaining regionalisation was crucial and will mean that, in accordance with our devolved Administration arrangements, voluntary modulation rates can be set at the level required in each of the four regions of the UK. Discretion over the franchise—a mechanism that exempts the first €5,000 of a direct payment from modulation—will enable us to keep the rate of voluntary modulation down.

I am not yet in a position to announce the precise rates of voluntary modulation and domestic co-financing that will apply in England during 2007-13. Following yesterday's important agreement, it will take a little time to finalise these arrangements. However, in the Agriculture Council I was able to confirm that the United Kingdom will table a written declaration at the time the regulation is adopted formally which will say that:

> All four parts of the United Kingdom will be using voluntary modulation;
>
> The rate of voluntary modulation to be applied will be less than 20 per cent;
>
> In England, 80 per cent. of voluntary modulation funds raised will be spent on environmental protection and enhancement measures under axis 2 of the rural development regulation, and will be co-financed at a significant level;

The Commission and Council have indicated their intention to table a joint declaration that indicates that the future funding for pillar 2 will be looked at as part of the forthcoming CAP Healthcheck. The UK supports this intention.

Any future increase in either compulsory modulation or EU rural development funding would allow the United Kingdom to review the rate of voluntary modulation we apply.

This has been a difficult and lengthy negotiation and I am very pleased that we have secured agreement to a text that meets the UK's requirements. I now look forward to being able to announce further details about the funding for and content of our new rural development programme in England shortly. I will keep the House informed of any further developments.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

International Corruption (Bribery)

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): I am pleased to publish today the Government's report to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the UK's progress with implementation of the OECD bribery convention. This complements the report my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development published on 12 March: "Combating International Corruption: UK Action Plan 2006-07: Interim Progress Report", which summarised a wide range of activities we have undertaken to tackle international corruption. The report published today, which was a

subject for discussion at last week's OECD working group on bribery in Paris, accounts for the work we have done in response to the OECD's "phase 2 review" of the UK, published in March 2005. It outlines the achievements we have made in implementing the OECD bribery convention, as well as addressing some of the challenges we have come across in this work. Some additional developments post-date the Government's submission of the report to the OECD.

First, the changes we have made to UK co-ordination in this area are significant, allowing us to be more effective in our efforts across the board. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development's appointment as the ministerial lead on fighting corruption was important. But this is by no means the only development. On the law enforcement side, there has been major progress. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has made it clear to all law enforcement agencies in the UK what practical support it can offer to transnational investigations. On specifics, the Government have confirmed the Serious Fraud Office (SFO)'s lead role in handling foreign bribery allegations and the SFO has created a special unit to vet such allegations. Since March 2005, the SFO has received 53 allegations, launched six new investigations and made four arrests. My noble and learned Friend the Attorney-General has stated that he will seek additional resources for the SFO's work in this area, should that be necessary.

With funding from the Department for International Development (DFID), the City of London police created a new dedicated 10-person unit to increase law enforcement capacity to investigate foreign bribery allegations. Set up in November 2006, the unit has already taken on four investigations and made its first arrests in January. In parallel, DFID has funded extra staff for the Metropolitan police service's proceeds of corruption unit to increase the UK's capacity to counter the laundering of corrupt assets in the UK's financial system. The Metropolitan police has £34.6 million worth of allegedly corrupt assets under restraint. The Met has responded to requests from the Nigerian Government relating to two former Nigerian state governors. In one case, £1 million has been returned. In the other, property bought in London—which was frozen by swift police action under the 2002 Proceeds of Crime Act—will now be sold so that the funds can be returned to the people of Nigeria from whom they were stolen. We have worked hard on proposals for an International Corruption Investigation Support Centre, a facility which poor countries can use to obtain legal advice on asset recovery and mutual legal assistance. There have been discussions with other interested donors and key service providers. An international expert meeting will take place on 21 March to agree proposals. Furthermore, changes in the UK's mutual legal assistance mechanisms will result in faster execution of requests from other countries.

In addition, the FCO has assumed a greater co-ordinating role in awareness-raising activities. This has allowed us to make best use of our guidance materials—a revised leaflet explaining UK anti-corruption law and a DVD, launched by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and myself last November. There is more systematic training for officials working overseas and law enforcement personnel, the latter drawing particularly on the experience of the Ministry of Defence police fraud squad. And the fight against corruption has featured in the FCO's regular dialogue with the trade union movement, to complement the rolling programme of sessions we hold for the UK business community, both in the UK and overseas. So, all in all, including inside the Palace of Westminster, there is much greater awareness in the UK of international corruption than there was a few years ago.

I should comment on legislative developments since March 2005, beginning with the question of comprehensive corruption legislation, which has been taken forward since we submitted this written report to the OECD last month. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department published the Government's response to the Home Office's 2005-06 consultation on 5 March, *Official Report*, column 115WS and his statement dealt with it in detail. Times have changed since the Law Commission first reported on this area of the law in 1998. Not only has the OECD published three reports on the UK's implementation of this convention and the UN convention come into force, but our law enforcement agencies now have several years' practical experience of applying the UK's current legal framework. All of these have helped to inform the Government's thinking. We continue to believe that our law meets the requirements of the OECD convention; the objective of this exercise is to clarify and modernise our legislation. As the my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department made clear last week, the consultation confirmed that there is broad support for reform of the prevention of corruption Acts and the Government remain committed to a fundamental reform. We shall bring forward legislative proposals as soon as we are in a position to do so. Ministers have asked the Law Commission to review the law of bribery and, in the light of their findings, to prepare a draft Bill, complete with extra resources to expedite the process. The Law Commission will have a broad mandate to consider the full range of structural options for a new modern and consolidated bribery law.

We have also been active in a number of other international forums. For example, the UK was a key participant at the first conference of states parties to the UN convention against corruption in December 2006, ensuring that we can take forward implementation on the crucial issues of asset recovery, technical assistance and review mechanisms. We also funded the participation at that conference of civil society representatives from more than a dozen developing countries to ensure that their voice was heard. We continue to help to deliver on G8 anti-corruption commitments, for example, on asset recovery.

The report also outlines a good degree of progress in the Crown dependencies and overseas territories. Guernsey and Jersey have both made progress towards implementing international anti-corruption treaties, as have several overseas territories. We have already extended the UN convention against corruption to the British Virgin Islands and hope to be in a position to extend this and the OECD convention to the Cayman Islands when it enacts new legislation later this year. We shall continue to raise the subject with the dependencies and territories at relevant opportunities, including at the highest level.

Following on from this week's discussions in Paris, the Government will continue to inform the OECD of further progress in this vital area. This co-operation will include our usual constructive approach to the preparation for and conduct of a future on site visit to the UK by experts from two other OECD countries in the coming year and contributions to a further written report on the UK. The visit and report will focus on the operation of our legal framework and law enforcement capacity and systems. We fully anticipate further recognition of the high level of transparency that characterises the UK's activities in this field. And we welcome the opportunity to demonstrate the degree of our commitment to all aspects of the fight against international corruption. As well as work under the OECD bribery convention, we shall continue to pursue our wider efforts in this regard, including by pushing for effective implementation of the UN convention against corruption, through G8 initiatives, the provision of technical assistance by DFID, the FCO and law enforcement experts and continued close engagement with the business community in key sectors.

HEALTH

NHS Trusts (Originating Capital)

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): Pursuant to the dissolution of 41 national health service trusts on 1 April 2006, 1 July 2006 and 1 October 2006 and their reconfiguration through the establishment of 16 new NHS trusts, I propose to create originating capital for the new NHS trusts equal to the net assets transferred to them and therefore to remit the outstanding debt of the dissolved trusts.

These operations involved no overall loss to the Exchequer. A minute giving particulars and circumstances of the proposed remission, which has been approved in principle by Her Majesty's Treasury, has today been laid before Parliament.

The minute has been placed in the Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity and Passport Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The Identity and Passport Service is today publishing its business plan for the year commencing April 2007. Copies of the document will be placed in the Library of the House.

Passport Fraud

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): Further to the statement of 2 May 2006 by my hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham), the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office, announcing the proposed introduction of interviews for adult first-time passport customers, the House will wish to know that I am announcing today the opening of the first passport interview offices commencing in May with further offices to be added progressively throughout 2007.

Passport interviews are part of the continuing fight against attempted passport fraud and forgery and are being introduced alongside other counter fraud initiatives. These changes are critical because of increasing levels of attempted passport and identity fraud. It is widely recognised that the very nature of identity fraud makes it difficult to be precise when estimating the scale of the problem in terms of the number of fraudulent passport applications. The Identity and Passport Service has sought to address this issue through special exercises that scrutinise a representative sample of passport applications.

During the period 31 October 2005 to 30 September 2006, a sample of several thousand applications were scrutinised by specialist Identity and Passport Service teams with support from fraud investigators. This found that 0.25 per cent. of applications (equivalent to 16,506 fraudulent passport applications a year) were believed to be from people attempting to obtain a passport fraudulently. Almost half of these applications were stopped by existing Identity and Passport Service processes. The remainder had gone undetected. Our current estimate is therefore that the level of undetected fraud is about 0.15 per cent. (equivalent to 10,000 applications against the planned 6.6 million passports issued per year).

Although precise figures are difficult to obtain, it appears that the level of attempted fraud is increasing and getting more sophisticated. Analysis of the frauds shows that the main fraud threat is from first time adult applications followed by first time child applications.

The Identity and Passport Service has developed a comprehensive counter fraud strategy that will help to mitigate these patterns of fraud including:

Checking biographical information to ensure that the identity claimed on the application form is real, living, and can be linked to the customer through cross checks against a range of public and private sector databases;

the development of facial recognition systems to check applicant images against a database of images of suspected fraudsters;

checking applicants against increasingly sophisticated internal watch files including the database of passports reported lost or stolen;

strengthening its business processes for identity authentication, and training and support for passport examiners and specialist fraud units;

interviews for all first-time adult customers.

The requirement to attend an interview will be introduced gradually, starting with modest volumes of interviews in a limited number of interview offices from May 2007, with the Identity and Passport Service progressively adding further offices through to the end of 2007. This progressive introduction will enable the Identity and Passport Service to enhance the interview process for customers using feedback from the early interviews.

These measures are essential to protect our citizens from identity theft and to ensure that the British passport remains one of the most secure and respected in the world.

I have placed an "Introduction of Passport Application Interviews" document in the Libraries of both Houses setting out the updated plans.

PRIME MINISTER

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): The hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) has been appointed as a full member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in place of the right hon. and learned Member for North-East Fife (Sir Menzies Campbell). The hon. Member for Cheadle (Mark Hunter) has been appointed as a substitute Member in place of the hon. Member for Rochdale.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Clergy Working Group

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) set up the Clergy Working Group in 2004 to look at clergy working conditions as part of its review of employment status issues. The working group included representatives from trade unions and many faith groups and was chaired by the DTI.

Discussions within the Clergy Working Group have resulted in the development of a statement of good practice. The statement represents minimum standards that faith groups should aim to achieve, on a voluntary basis, in a variety of areas—terms and conditions of work; resolving disputes; development and personnel support; and information and consultation.

As a first step the DTI is asking faith groups to assess the current position in relation to the standards in the statement and in two years time will ask faith groups what progress has been made. Individuals will have an opportunity to contribute to this process at both stages. Based on the information and evidence provided, DTI will consider if any further action is appropriate, including legislative action. The DTI will encourage other faith groups, which did not participate in the working group, to consider joining this process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection reports were published today on Glasgow city council, and London borough of Hounslow. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The BFI reports detail a range of strengths and weaknesses in the housing benefit services provided by councils and make recommendations to improve the security and efficiency of benefit delivery.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the reports and may ask the councils for proposals in response to BFI's findings.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 21 March 2007

TREASURY

Debt and Reserves Management

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): The "Debt and Reserves Management Report 2007-08" is being published today. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Invest to Save Budget

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am pleased to announce that a total of 24 bids from organisations spanning the public and third sectors have been awarded funding for projects following the ninth bidding round of the Invest to Save Budget. A total of £9 million has been allocated over the three years to 2009-10 for England. The allocated sum rises to £11 million to include consequential funding for the devolved Administrations. Details of the winning projects have been placed in the Library of the House.

The Invest to Save Budget (ISB), set up following the 1998 Comprehensive Spending Review, provides initial funding support for projects that increase the extent of joint working between different parts of the public sector; identify innovative ways of delivering public services; and reduce the cost of delivering the services and/or improve the quality and effectiveness of services delivered to the public.

This ninth bidding round was focused on supporting innovative approaches to the delivery of local services by third sector organisations. The intention was to encourage local authorities to work in partnership with local third sector organisations to deliver services in line with local needs and priorities.

Applicants were asked to address the priority areas of:

The Third Sector's role in delivering public services and building fairer Communities—projects that deliver cash releasing efficiencies; and projects that address the priorities set out in their Local Area Agreement and support their Community Strategy—projects that are additional to those already funded by statutory bodies and which address recognised gaps in local service provision.

Successful projects are required to agree a detailed implementation plan, setting out how the project will be delivered. Each project must also provide six-monthly progress reports to sponsor departments and the Treasury and carry out an evaluation of the project's success once it has been completed. Wider dissemination of the good practice from completed projects is then fed back into the whole spectrum of public service providers.

This ninth ISB bidding round allocates the remainder of the £90 million awarded to the ISB in SR2004.

More information can be found on the ISB website at www.isb.gov.uk

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

UK Intellectual Property Office

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): I have tasked the UK Intellectual Property Office with managing and shaping an intellectual property system that encourages innovation and creativity, balances the needs of rights holders and the public, promotes strong and competitive markets and provides a firm foundation for the knowledge-based economy.

I have set the UK Intellectual Property Office a broader range of targets for 2007-08 based on a balanced scorecard approach. These targets are:

Customers and Stakeholders

Issue 90 per cent. of patent search reports within four months of request.

Grant 90 per cent. of patents within two and a half years of request.

To register 90 per cent. of processed trade mark applications, to which no substantive objections have been raised or oppositions filed, within eight months of application.

To examine 95 per cent. of all design applications within three months.

To resolve 55 per cent. of trade mark disputes in one year".

To receive an overall "good" or "satisfactory" rating in at least 80 per cent. of responses in customer and ministerial surveys.

The number of businesses taking action to improve the management of their IP will increase by 20 per cent. above baseline in targeted groups.

Meet 80 per cent. of agreed milestones in development of policy initiatives.

Generate a 10 per cent. increase in demand for non-statutory innovation support services.

Develop six target profiles, using Telpat intelligence.

Finance

Achieve the target of 4 per cent. on return on capital employed.

Reduce total current expenditure on the operations of the trading fund compared with the baseline of the corporate plan 2004-05, in line with the DTI's published "Efficiency Technical Note". Cumulative savings target for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is £2.7 million.

Internal Processes

Achieve positive outcomes on 100 per cent. of ISO and Charter Mark healthchecks.

Make the correct decision on registerability in at least 98.5 per cent. of trade mark applications.

Give good customer service in patent search and examination in 95 per cent. of quality assured cases.

Reduce number of days sick absence per person to:

9 days by March 2008

8.5 days by March 2009

8 days by March 2010

Complete, sign off and return 100 per cent. of performance measurement forms to personnel by 31 May 2008

95% by 31 May 2007

100% by 31 May 2008

To achieve 99 per cent. or more of the agreed monthly service levels for key IT systems.

Some 80 per cent. or more of internal customers are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the provision of internal IT customer services.

Apply for initial assessment of our environmental management system by the ISO accreditation body by the end of March 2008.

Change and Development

Achieve a minimum of 75 per cent. "No actions required" recommendations in follow up internal audit reports where initial recommendations were "Necessary Actions Required" or "Urgent Actions Required".

Some 80 per cent. of completed TREFs to contain positive feedback from line manager on the improved competences of staff.

To achieve 80 per cent. or more of agreed milestones for key projects within the reporting year.

Ensure that applications from black and minority ethnic people are running at 5 per cent. of applications for A-B1 level posts by end March 2008.

*this target is intended to have a second element "to have disposed of at least 98 per cent. of disputes within three years, from the third year of this target, ie 2008-09"

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 22 March 2007

TREASURY

Finance Bill

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): It is expected that the Finance Bill will be published on Thursday 29 March. Explanatory notes on the Bill's clauses will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and in the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Members of the public will be able to obtain copies of the explanatory notes from the Treasury. These will also be available on the Treasury's website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Family Courts

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I am pleased to inform the House that I have today laid before Parliament and placed in the Libraries of both Houses the responses to the Government's "Confidence and Confidentiality: Improving Transparency and Privacy in Family Courts" consultation paper which was published on 11 July 2006. The document is available on the Department's website at: http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/confr.htm. We will also be publishing a young people's guide.

There were 245 formal responses to the consultation, and additional contributions through stakeholder events and discussion forums. The Government were pleased to receive responses from all sides of the debate and were grateful for the respondents' comments and suggestions. I am particularly grateful for the important contribution that children and young people have made to this consultation.

We have considered what people have said very carefully and will reflect on the responses received before bringing forward our proposals".

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. John Prescott): This year is the bicentenary of a remarkable piece of legislation—the 1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. This Act outlawed slave carrying by British ships in the former British Empire.

Although slavery itself was not abolished until 1833, with the Emancipation Act, 1807 marked the beginning of the end for the transatlantic slave trade which had seen more than 12 million men, women and children bought and sold into slavery and over 2 million die.

The anniversary of this Act is a chance to look into the past, to remember a period of dreadful inhumanity and pay tribute to the campaigners who fought this injustice and of those who enforced the new law, including the Royal Navy. But it is also an opportunity to look forward, and to recognise the tremendous contribution of Black African and Caribbean communities not only to the success of this country, but also the vibrancy of our culture and heritage.

It is also an important opportunity to recognise the fact that slavery did not die out with the end of the transatlantic trade. There are an estimated 12.3 million enslaved people in the world today. In the 21st century, slavery persists in the form of human trafficking, bonded labour and the forced recruitment of child soldiers.

The Government want to ensure we gain the best possible legacy from the bicentenary. So as part of our work to commemorate this anniversary and to focus attention on tackling contemporary or legacy issues that arise out of the slave trade I am pleased to announce that the Government are today publishing a commemorative magazine to mark the bicentenary.

This magazine aims to inform members of the public about the slave trade, those who fought for its abolition, the subsequent emancipation process as well as work taking place to tackle discrimination in Britain and forms of slavery still present in the world today. Copies will be distributed to museums, libraries and local community organisations across the country over the next few days. Copies will also be sent to all MPs and Peers.

In the meantime further information about the bicentenary including details of events taking place all around the country to mark the anniversary can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/slavery.

Copies of the magazine will also be placed in the Library for the reference of Members and will be available in the Vote Office.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

"Raising Expectations: Staying in Education and Training Post-16"

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Alan Johnson): I have today laid before the House a Green Paper, "Raising Expectations: Staying in Education and Training Post-16" which sets out the Government's proposals that young people should continue to participate in some form of education or training until the age of 18.

The Green Paper sets out proposals to raise the aspirations of young people and to galvanise the entire education system to offer them more, so that they are able to stay on and achieve success. The benefits to young people, the economy, and society will be significant.

For young people, participating in education and training for longer and achieving more leads to better outcomes—improved job prospects, higher earnings, and better health. Employers know that as the skills of employees improve their workforce becomes more productive.

These proposals have a long history. Both the 1918 and 1944 Education Acts sought to keep young people learning up to 18—though these provisions were never successfully implemented. It has now been 35 years since the last change in the leaving age, 35 years in which the UK has been transformed technologically, economically, and socially. There are many fewer unskilled jobs—a 16-year-old leaving school with no qualifications today is not prepared for the economy and society they are entering. As the Leitch review of skills highlights, the challenges of globalisation mean that British businesses will need ever more skilled employees to remain competitive.

We already recognise this need for improved levels of skills. We are already committed to making sure that 90 per cent. of 17-year-olds participate in education or training by 2015. This is a challenging target that we are confident we will meet, and it will represent a real improvement on the current participation rate in England of 76 per cent. Yet, it will still not be enough to pull us into the top tier internationally. The current UK participation rate places us 20th out of 30 OECD countries. Even an improvement to 90 per cent. would only place us around 10th, and that assuming other countries make no progress. So, we need to move beyond 90 per cent. participation to compete globally, but also for reasons of social justice. If 10 per cent. of young people do not participate then there is a risk that it is those young people with lower aspirations, who perhaps come from families and communities that have themselves had a poor experience of schooling, who miss out as participation increases. Within this group are often the young people who would have most to gain from longer participation and higher attainment. We cannot allow the most disadvantaged to miss out.

To ensure that all young people benefit, "Raising Expectations" sets out a central proposal that we will consult on:

That from 2015, young people should remain in education or training at least until their 18th birthday.

That this education or training could be in a school, college, with a work-based learning provider, or as part of a job.

That it should be full time, or part time if a young person is in full time employment.

To fully realise the benefits, participation must lead to attainment. And to ensure this happens we will need:

Engaging routes for everyone.

The right support to enable every young person to participate, whatever their circumstances.

Engagement from employers to offer high quality work-based training opportunities.

The means of making sure everyone benefits.

The central proposal recognises that different routes will work better for different young people. That is why "Raising Expectations" does not simply propose to raise the school leaving age. Rather, it proposes that young people should be able to choose the route that best suits them: this could be in school, college, or at work, working towards general qualifications, one of the new diplomas, or an apprenticeship. This range of provision and flexibility of approach will be critical to ensure that there is a suitable and attractive route for every young person. It will also mean that young people can choose to work alongside learning if they want to. We are already committed, as part of the programme of reforms detailed in the 2005 "14-19 Education and Skills" White Paper, to expand the curriculum options available to young people, and do not seek to raise the participation age until this is done. This means waiting until 2013, when the national entitlement to diplomas will see all 14 diploma lines available across England, and when the apprenticeship entitlement will be in place, so that every young person who is ready to and who wants to take an apprenticeship will be able to do so. The Green Paper proposes to raise the participation age to 17 from September 2013, and to 18 from September 2015.

"Raising Expectations" sets out the Government's commitment to ensure that every young person is given the appropriate information, advice, and guidance, and the right financial and other support to ensure that they are able to access the right programme of study to suit their needs and aspirations. It also sets out a number of ways in which the Government will continue to encourage employers to provide valuable training opportunities for young people who want to work as they learn. These include increasing the number of apprenticeships available, utilising Train to Gain brokers to help employers find a training opportunity that meets a business need, and improving the accreditation system so that all employer training that is substantial and good quality is recognised.

"Raising Expectations" is predicated on a solid foundation of good economic sense and strong social justice. It recognises the challenges of implementation, and sets out how we propose to meet these challenges. In doing so, it sets out a clear vision of how all young people can benefit from longer participation and higher attainment, and how society and the economy will benefit in turn.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Sewer Overflows (River Thames)

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): Since 2000 this Department has been involved in the development of options to improve the water quality of the tidal Thames by addressing the environmental impact of large volumes of sewage overflow discharges. The overflows, which are made up of sewage and run-off rainwater, are an integral part of the sewer network, originally designed by the Victorian engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette, to convey sewage to east London, where it now receives treatment at Beckton and Crossness.

It is estimated that annual overflow discharges from the sewers and the sewage treatment works to the tidal Thames and River Lee amount to around 52 million cubic metres. This would be enough to fill the Albert Hall 525 times. Of this 32 million cubic metres is discharged from the sewer network overflows, and 20 million cubic metres from the sewage treatment works (Crossness and Mogden).

These overflows are having an adverse effect on the environmental quality of the Thames. It has been found that the frequent overflows (on average once a week), and the large quantities of untreated discharges are causing:

adverse environmental impacts on fish species;

unacceptable aesthetic issues; and

elevated health risks for recreational users of the Thames.

The Department has already been involved in decisions to significantly increase the secondary treatment capacity at Beckton, Crossness and Mogden sewage treatment works. The expenditure is planned through Thames Water's existing (2005-10) and assumed (2010-15) investment programme, and the schemes are expected to be completed by March 2012 (Beckton and Mogden), and by March 2014 (Crossness). But this does not address the fundamental problem of discharge overflows into the River Thames and River Lee.

On 27 July 2006 I wrote to Thames Water, the sewerage service provider for London, requesting a detailed assessment of two short-listed options to tackle sewer overflows to the tidal Thames and River Lee.

The two options assessed were: 1) a single tunnel, over 30 km long, to intercept discharges from unsatisfactory overflows along the length of the tidal Thames and to the River Lee; 2) two separate shorter tunnels in West and East London to intercept overflow discharges along those stretches of the river. Both options were to convey the collected sewage for treatment in East London.

I have carefully considered the reports Thames Water submitted to me at the end of 2006, and met with stakeholders, who were involved in this work, to hear their views. A Regulatory Impact Assessment has been completed and is available on the DEFRA website.

Today I am announcing the Government decision for an option 1 type solution. As part of the overall scheme I am asking Thames Water to limit overflow discharges from Abbey Mills Pumping Station in East London first, as it is responsible for around 50 per cent. of the total volume of overflow discharges.

This approach is needed to provide a River Thames fit for London in the 21st century and to meet the statutory requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994. Construction of such a major infrastructure scheme may well cost at least £2 billion, which will be funded through the bills of Thames Water customers and take until 2019-20 to deliver. Depending on how the planning and funding applications progress, indications are that customers bills for this project will start to increase from 2010. It is estimated by the Water Services Regulation Authority that the peak impact on average customer bills could be £37 in 2017.

Thames Water, the Environment Agency, the Water Services Regulation Authority and others will be taking this forward for planning and funding applications. Government will be closely following this detailed work as it develops.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Orders

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (John Reid): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires me to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice and legal requirements.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorist-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

During the period 11 December 2006 to 10 March 2007, four new control orders were made. Three were made with the permission of the court under section 3(1)(a) of the 2005 Act; two were served on British citizens—one on 28 December 2006 and one on 3 January 2007—and one was served on a foreign national on 9 March 2007. A control order was already in force at the beginning of this reporting period in relation to the foreign national; it was revoked and the new order made and served in its place.

The fourth control order was made using the urgency procedures under section 3(1)(b) of the 2005 Act, and was served on 16 February 2007. This replaced a control order on the same individual that was already in force at the beginning of this reporting period. The previous control order was revoked at the same time the new control order was served. The court confirmed the new control order on 21 February 2007. The revocation of the old order and service of the new control order was as a result of the High Court judgment of 16 February in the case of Secretary of State for the Horns Department v E [2007] EWHC 233 (Admin). This was the third control order review hearing under section 3(10) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 but the first hearing with full evidence about the factual issues of a particular case. The court accepted that the Secretary of State had reasonable grounds for suspecting that E was involved in terrorism-related activity. However, the court found that the control order obligations cumulatively amounted to a deprivation of E's liberty under Article 5(1) ECHR and that the Secretary of State's decision to maintain E's control order was flawed because he failed to review the prospects of prosecuting E in the light of certain Belgian judgments after they were received and translated. The control order was quashed on that basis. The full judgment is available via http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/.

The Secretary of State is appealing this judgment. Before making the new order against E, the Crown Prosecution Service reviewed the Belgian judgments referred to above as well as other recent material. The position remains that there is currently insufficient admissible evidence available to the police that could realistically be used for the purpose of prosecuting him for an offence relating to terrorism. However, the position will be kept under review.

Two other control order review hearings have taken place pursuant to section 3(10) of the 2005 Act. We await the outcome of both.

Two control orders on British citizens were renewed in accordance with Section 2(4)(b) of the 2005 Act, and served on 22 February 2007.

No control orders have expired since the last report.

In total, therefore, there are 18 control orders currently in force, nine of which are in respect of British citizens. Eight of the individuals live in the Metropolitan police area; the rest fall within other police force areas.

During the period, one modification of control order obligations was made, three modification requests remain outstanding, and 10 requests to modify a control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal exists in section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State not to modify an obligation contained in a control order. This has not yet been exercised in respect of these refusals. An appeal has been made in respect of a modification made during the previous quarter. In addition, an appeal has been considered as part of one of the control order review hearings; in the other control order review hearing that took place during the period, there was no formal appeal against modifications refused, but the issues raised by the refusals were considered by the court.

Control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned, and are based on the risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under review to ensure their continuance and obligations remain necessary and proportionate. Specifically, as Lord Carlile recommended in his February 2006 report on the operation of the control order system, the Home Office has established a review group, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular (quarterly), formal and audited review.

Breaches of control orders could arise from any obligation, and could include arriving home after commencement of a curfew period or breaking geographical boundary restrictions on movement. As reported in the additional statement of 16 January 2007, an individual charged with breach of control order obligations during the period covered by the 11 December 2006 quarterly report was convicted in January of failure to comply with daily reporting requirements and failure to notify the Home Office of a change of residence. He was sentenced to five months' imprisonment. This is the first conviction for an offence under the 2005 Act. Also as reported on 16 January, another individual has been charged with failure to comply with control order obligations and is currently on remand in prison. The charges relate to failure to comply with curfew requirements and failure to comply with restrictions on communications. The individual mentioned in the 11 December report as having been charged with failure to comply with a daily reporting requirement but not failure to notify the Home Office of a change of residence has, since 16 January, been charged with additional offences of failure to comply with a daily reporting requirement, and with failure to notify the Home Office of a change of residence.

As Parliament will be aware, two of the 18 individuals currently subject to a control order absconded while subject to a control order (one in September 2006 and one in January 2007). Details in relation to the January abscond were given in the statement of 16 January. Another individual absconded in August 2006, after a control order was made (i.e. signed) against that individual, but before the order had been served. This order is therefore not in operation. I have been informed that the individual who absconded in August 2006 is currently believed to be abroad; the High Court has been notified of this. The individual in question has been excluded from the UK.

On 29 January, the Appeal Committee of the House of Lords confirmed that the House of Lords will hear two appeals against judgments handed down by the Court of Appeal on 1 August 2006 in respect of control orders. The Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the Secretary of State in one case (Secretary of State for the Home Department v MB [2006] EWCA Civ 1140, an appeal in relation to Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights—right to a fair trial) and against the Secretary of State in the other case (Secretary of State for the Home Department v JL, KK, GG, HH, NN and LL [2006] EWCA Civ 1141, an appeal in relation to Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights—right to liberty).

Sections 1 to 9 of the 2005 Act are subject to annual renewal by Parliament. The draft renewal Order for those sections of the Act was debated and approved by the House of Commons on 22 February and the House of Lords on 5 March. The Secretary of State subsequently signed the renewal Order, so sections 1 to 9 of the Act now continue in force until the end of 10 March 2008.

TRANSPORT

Crossrail

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The House will recall the extensive discussion in the Crossrail Instruction debate on 31 October about a station at Woolwich, adding £186 million to the cost of the scheme. This could simply not be afforded given the scale of the overall funding challenge. I said then, however, that I was willing to give Cross London Rail Links Ltd—the Crossrail Company—the time needed to explore with others, including the London Borough of Greenwich, whether there was a way of significantly reducing that cost.

I am pleased today to inform the House of important developments that point a way forward.

The key to this has been Greenwich Council's recent proposal for a major revision to its spatial plan, to allow a significantly higher density of development at Woolwich. This, in turn, has prompted Berkeley Homes to offer a means of enabling a station to be built at Woolwich but, crucially, without adding to the current cost of Crossrail.

In light of this, agreement has been reached in principle with Berkeley Homes under which they will build the basic box structure of a station at Woolwich and then construct their own development overhead. This will all be done at their own risk, using their own money, to the specification laid down by CLRL, with a payment back to Berkeley Homes of the saving CLRL

will make through avoiding other works at Woolwich, when it constructs the line there.

In due course, Berkeley Homes would then arrange for the completion of the station box to full operational status. Both they and Greenwich Council recognise that the completion of the station would be conditional on receiving sufficient funding contributions from those developers and businesses that stand to benefit from a Crossrail station at Woolwich. The contributions would be in addition to any London-wide Crossrail funding arrangements that may be agreed and no additional public sector debt capacity would be made available. Fit-out of the station could take place only once sufficient private sector contributions had been received.

More work needs to be done to flesh out this deal but the House can now have sufficient confidence that Berkeley and Greenwich Council have the commitment and the right incentives to do that. This is a very significant change from the position last October as there is now a clear way forward that can deliver a station at Woolwich without adding to the costs of Crossrail already identified.

On this basis I am now able to bring forward an amendment to the Bill to provide powers for the station. In due course, the House will be invited to agree a further instruction to the Committee in respect of Woolwich.

WALES

National Assembly for Wales (Standing Orders)

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am delighted to inform the House that I have today in my capacity as Secretary of State for Wales undertaken my formal responsibility under the Government of Wales Act 2006 to make the new Standing Orders of the National Assembly for Wales. This gives full effect to the proposals unanimously agreed by the Assembly on 7 February.

The Government of Wales Act 2006 are the most important step forward for devolution since the establishment of the National Assembly for Wales in 1999. The Act puts Wales on a new constitutional footing and represents a landmark step in the growing strength, stature and self-confidence of the Assembly.

By granting enhanced legislative powers for Wales, it will enable the Assembly to deliver tailor-made policies for the people of Wales. And by putting the possibility of primary powers on the statute book for the first time ever, subject to the approval of the people of Wales in a referendum, it will settle the constitutional status of the Assembly for a generation.

Since 17 May 2006 the Standing Orders Committee of the Assembly has been working to put in place a set of procedures that will enable the Assembly to take full advantage of the tremendous opportunities that the new powers in the Government of Wales Act provide. Unlike the Assembly's Standing Orders under the 1998 Act, these new procedures were developed in Wales, for Wales, by the elected representatives of the people of Wales.

I congratulate the work done by all sides of the Assembly to establish the new procedures under which the Assembly will operate from May. It will be for the members of the new National Assembly to make these Standing Orders work and to deliver a brighter future for the people of Wales.

Copies of the Standing Orders have been placed in the Library and the Vote Office. They are also available on the Wales Office website at: www.walesoffice.gov.uk.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 23 March 2007

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held on 27 February in Brussels. The UK was represented by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury. The items on the agenda were as follows:

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

Stability and Convergence Programmes

ECOFIN adopted Council Opinions on the Stability Programmes of Slovenia, Portugal, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Ireland, France and Germany, and on the Convergence Programmes of Cyprus, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Sweden, Poland, Malta, Lithuania, Hungary, Greece, Finland, Estonia and Denmark.

Ministers held an exchange of views on the issues raised by the assessments. The president of the Council concluded that member states should continue to implement reforms to reduce structural deficits, avoid pro-cyclical expenditure, and ensure the sustainability of public finances and the quality of expenditure.

Excessive Deficit Procedure

Ministers adopted a Council Recommendation with a view to bringing to an end the excessive deficit in Poland. It recommended that the Polish authorities put an end to the present excessive deficit situation by 2007, reducing the general government deficit in a credible and sustainable manner.

The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) which takes into account the level of debt, the influence of the cycle and the level of public investment, and ensures that any recommendations reflect each member state's economic position.

Preparation of the European Council (8-9 March 2007)

ECOFIN discussed three issues in preparation for the Spring European Council. These were:

Key Issues Paper

This discussion followed the orientation debate on the Key Issues Paper at the last ECOFIN meeting. The Key Issues Paper informs the Spring European Council of ECOFIN Ministers' priorities. The UK stressed the need for an Energy Policy for Europe based on careful assessment of the impact on cost-effectiveness, security and diversification of supply and subsidiarity, creating a positive framework for investment in the energy sector; the need to complete the single market and to further integrate European financial markets to enhance their efficiency and global competitiveness; the importance of long-term fiscal sustainability; and supported ongoing work to combat fiscal fraud and harmful tax practices.

Updating the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines 2005-2008

Ministers agreed the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines for the Spring Council.

Reducing administrative burdens

ECOFIN agreed Council Conclusions on reducing administrative burdens. The UK supports the Conclusions, which include a 25% target for the reduction of administrative burdens arising from EU legislation. The UK already has a domestic target to reduce admin burdens by the same amount, and will continue to press for a risk-based approach to European regulation.

General budget of the European Union

Discharge procedure in respect of the implementation of the budget for 2005

Council adopted Conclusions recommending that the European Parliament grant discharge to the Commission on the EC's 2005 budget. The UK stressed the need to address the persistent inability of the Court of Auditors to give a positive statement of assurance on the budget, and said that the Commission, member states and the Court itself all have a role to play in this respect. The UK urged other member states to look at ways—compatible with their own institutional arrangements—to improve their management of EC funds at a national level, along the lines of the UK's initiative announced in November 2006.

Financial Services

Clearing and Settlement

Ministers agreed Conclusions on Target 2 Securities, which establish issues of principle relevant to future decisions on Target 2 Securities, and received an update from the Commission on the implementation of the Code of Conduct. The UK stressed the importance of an open, transparent and market-led approach to clearing and settlement initiatives.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Human Trafficking

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): Following the public consultation process that took place in 2006, I have pleasure in laying before Parliament a copy of the United Kingdom's Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking which will be published today. Copies will be placed in the House Library.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EU Development Ministers' Informal Meeting (Bonn)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): I represented the UK at the EU Development Ministers' Informal Meeting in Bonn on 12-13 March 2007.

The main discussion was on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) among key stakeholders, involving EU Development Ministers and 30 Ministerial representatives from African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) states. Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Development Commissioner Louis Michel represented the European Commission and explained where the negotiations had got to and what the Commission could offer, while emphasising the developmental importance of EPAs and the need for faster progress to meet the end-2007 deadline for agreement.

Each ACP regional grouping reported on the state of play of the negotiations. Supported by many others, the UK pressed for duty-free, quota-free market access for ACP products, more liberal Rules of Origin, and lengthy transition periods for ACP partners. The ACP side expressed their strong commitment to the EPA negotiations and to the deadline, but highlighted a number of issues that needed to be resolved, including more aid for trade.

EU Development Ministers also discussed two issues being taken forward under the German EU Presidency: energy and development, and division of labour. Ministers expressed broad support for a proposed EU-Africa Partnership on Energy, stressing the vital role of energy for Africa's economic and social development. The UK noted the challenge that access, energy security and climate change represent to the developing world and the importance of Europe taking a global leadership in addressing this. The May Development Council will agree steps to improve the effectiveness of aid by promoting a more sensible division of labour between donors.

In the margins of the Informal Meeting, World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz and Dr. Michael Otto spoke on "Investing in Africa". Discussion revolved around the need to enable Africa to show itself in a positive light and for donors, the private sector and the poor themselves to be further involved in stimulating the Continent's growth.

Oliver Kamitatu, Minister of Planning from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Roeland van der Geer, the EU Special Representative for the Great Lakes, spoke on the political, economic and social challenges presented by reconstruction in that region. UN Deputy Secretary General Asha-Rose Migiro also spoke on the need for UN reform.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Food Safety Promotion Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Paul Goggins): Copies of the Food Safety Promotion Board Annual Report 2005, incorporating Financial Statements for 2005 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

This document provides details of the Food Safety Promotion Board's activities, its performance and expenditure to the end of 2005.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 26 March 2007

TREASURY

Issuer Liability: Davies Review

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): My written statement of 26 January 2007 announced the terms of reference for the independent review of issuer liability that I invited Professor Paul Davies QC, Cassel Professor of Commercial Law at the London School of Economics to carry out.

His discussion paper "Liability for Misstatements to the Market" is being published today. This sets out his analysis of the problem and invites comments on the issues arising. Copies of the paper are available in the House Library and can be downloaded from the HM Treasury website at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/davies.

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held on 27 March in Brussels. The items on the agenda are as follows:

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

Stability and Convergence Programmes

Ministers will be invited to adopt Council Opinions on the Stability Programmes of Belgium and Spain, and on the Convergence Programmes of Latvia, Bulgaria and Romania. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the SGP that takes account of country-specific factors including debt sustainability, the economic cycle and public investment.

General Budget of the European Union

Council Priorities for the 2008 Budget

Ministers will be invited to adopt Conclusions agreeing the Council's Budget Guidelines for the 2008 EC Budget. These guidelines are a set of broad principles that are designed to inform the subsequent and more detailed discussions on the level of appropriations required for the different areas of the Budget. These guidelines reflect the UK's desire to see a greater emphasis on the principles of budgetary discipline and sound financial management in the establishment of the 2008 EC Budget. Through these principles, the Council has underlined the importance it attaches to compliance with the financial framework and the strict respect of the annual limits therein.

Progress Report on the Commission Action Plan towards an Integrated Internal Control Framework

Ministers will hear a presentation from Commissioner Almunia updating them on the European Commission's progress in implementing its Action Plan towards an Integrated Internal Control Framework. The UK Government support the Commission's efforts to improve financial management of the EU Budget and announced to Parliament on 20 November 2006 that the UK would take a lead in showing how member states could improve their own management of EU funds.

Financial Services

Directive on Prudential Assessment of Acquisitions in the Financial Sector

Ministers will be asked to approve text amending the supervisory review process for cross-border mergers and acquisitions in the financial services sector, as adopted by the European Parliament on 13 March, and thus to confirm political agreement on the directive. The UK welcomes moves to bring greater transparency to the supervisory approvals process.

Directive on Payment Services in the Internal Market

Ministers will be asked to discuss the Presidency's proposal for harmonising the legal and technical provision of payment services across the EU, ahead of a vote in the European Parliament in April. The UK Government support a Directive that encourages competition and innovation in a single market for payment services.

Valuation Office Agency

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): I have today set the following key performance indicators for the Valuation Office Agency for 2007-08:

Customer satisfaction

To achieve overall customer satisfaction of 88 per cent.

Operations

Contain reductions in the 2005 rating lists to a maximum of 4.2 per cent. of the total compiled list rateable value, over the entire life of the lists

Enable prompt issue of correct bills by local authorities through clearance of rating reports within an average of 18 working days and council tax reports within an average of 14 days (England) and 16 days (Wales)

Ensure that 96 per cent. of new council tax bandings are right first time

Enable prompt issue of tax assessments by clearing all HMRC initial appraisal cases for inheritance tax within an average of eight days and for Capital Gains Tax within an average of 12 days

People

All staff to have the core skills and competencies for their role within six months of taking up post

Value for Money

To improve productivity by 3 per cent. in 2007-08[1]

To improve Value for Money on Inheritance Tax work by 5 per cent.

[1] Work undertaken in Local Taxation network and excludes rating appeal and other associated work

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): I am pleased to announce that the review by Government (the UK Government and the devolved administrations) of the long term management of the UK's solid low level radioactive waste (LLW), started on 18 March 2005, has been completed and that the revised policy statement is being published today. Copies of the policy statement have been placed in the Library of the House.

The LLW policy review process complements the ongoing work Government are carrying out on the policy for the management of higher activity radioactive wastes under our Managing Radioactive Waste Safely programme, following recommendations made by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) in July 2006.

The public consultation on the review of solid LLW management policy was held between 28 February 2006 and 31 May 2006. Some 150 responses were received and a summary of the Government's response to them is also being placed in the Library of the House. As made clear when the consultation was announced, unlike the higher activity wastes, paths for the long term management and disposal of LLW already exist but the review was needed for the following principal reasons:

With the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA's) decommissioning and clean-up programme underway, there will be greatly increased arisings of LLW over the coming decades, and this is already starting to happen;

there will be insufficient long term capacity at the national LLW disposal facility near Drigg in Cumbria to deal with this waste, and the future capacity of this facility is currently under review;

while other disposal routes for certain types of LLW have been used (eg by disposal on or near the site of arising, by controlled and uncontrolled burial to landfill and by incineration), the availability of these other routes has diminished in recent years;

finding small scale treatment and disposal routes for the least radioactive LLW, which are very important for the non-nuclear sectors (hospitals, research and education establishments, and the oil and gas industry) is proving increasingly difficult.

The revised policy puts providing public safety at the forefront of dealing with LLW, and recognises that much LLW has very low levels of radioactivity and can be disposed of in a variety of ways while posing a negligible risk to human health or the environment. The revised policy will:

require very high levels of safety to be maintained through the use of a risk assessed approach, and the preparation of plans and safety cases that are acceptable to the regulatory bodies (including the Environment Agencies and the Health and Safety Executive);

allow greater flexibility in the management of the wide range of LLW that already exists, and will arise in future from the NDA's activities and other nuclear and non-nuclear industry arisings;

seek to minimise the amount of LLW for disposal by application of the waste hierarchy applied in other areas of waste management - avoidance of generation, minimisation, reuse and recycling - prior to disposal;

emphasise the need for effective consultation and public involvement in the development and delivery of LLW waste management plans

make the NDA responsible for development of a UK-wide strategy for the management of nuclear industry LLW, including the identification of the need for additional LLW disposal capacity and facilities;

initiate the first steps towards development of a UK-wide strategy for the management of non-nuclear LLW. The first step in this will be for Government, in conjunction with the NDA, to undertake a study which will give a clear picture of arisings across the UK.

Further information, including the full policy statement, is available at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radio activitv/waste/index.htm.

NORTHERN IRELAND

North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Limited

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): I have today placed in the Libraries of the House papers relating to decisions that have been taken during the period 28 October 2006 - 1 March 2007 which relate to the North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd under the terms of the Exchange of Notes of 19 November 2002 (Cmnd 5708).

Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Sector

IP/FCILC 25 Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries Draft Order

IP/FCILC 26 Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Licensing of Fishing Engines) Amendment) Regulations 2007

IP/FCILC 27 Extension of the Terms of Office of Board Members

Food Safety Sector

IP/FS 17 IP Business Plan for 2007 and Budgets 2007-08

IP/FS 19 Appointment of Chief Executive Officer

IP/FS 20 Code of Conduct for Members of Safefood, the Food Safety Promotion Board, the Staff of the Body and Members of the Advisory Board.

IP/FS 21 Extension of the Terms of Office of Board Members

Language Sector

IP/LAN 41 Staffing for Tha Boord O Ulstèr-Scotch (Ulster Scots Agency Cross Border Project)

IP/LAN 42 Staffing for Tha Boord O Ulstèr-Scotch (Ulster Scots Agency)

IP/LAN 43 Extension of the Terms of Office of Board Members

Special European Union Programmes Body

IP/SEU 23 - North/South Pension Committee - Interim Executive Resource

IP/SEU 24 - Special EU Programme Body Annual Report and Accounts for 2005

IP/SEU 25 - Special EU Programmes Body Staffing

Trade And Business Sector

IP/TB 18 Change to the Terms of Appointment of the Chief Executive of Inter*Trade*Ireland

IP/TB 19 Extension of the Terms of Office of Board Members

Inland Waterways Sector

IP/WI 21 Business Plan and Budgets 2007

IP/WI 22 Two 99 Year Leases of River Shannon Frontage at Coothall, Co Roscommon to Mrs Maura Doherty

IP/WI 23 99 Year Lease on the Shannon Erne Waterway at Lanesborough, Co Roscommon to Fast Fit Doors Ltd

IP/WI 24 99 Year Lease on the Shannon Erne Waterway at Cullyleenan, Ballyconnell, Co Cavan to Cullyleenan Properties

IP/WI 25 99 Year Lease on the Shannon Erne Waterway at Kilcorby, Belturbet, Co Cavan to Kilcorby Chalets Ltd

IP/WI 26 Employee Code of Conduct

IP/WI 27 - Lease of Part of a Waterway to Dublin Docklands Development Authority to Facilitate the Construction of a Walkway Structure at Grand Canal Plaza.

IP/WI 28 - Lease of Part of a Waterway to Gerard Conefrey at Keshcarrigan, Co Leitrim to Facilitate the Construction of a Private 26 Berth Marina and Car Parking Area

Tourism Sector

IP/TOU 26 - Membership of Board of Tourism Ireland Limited

PRIME MINISTER

European Summit (24-25 March)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): EU Heads of State and Government met in Berlin over the weekend 24-25 March to mark the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. The Berlin Declaration recalls the historic achievements of the last 50 years, and looks ahead to the challenges that we the countries of the European Union need to face together. Copies of the Declaration have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Royal Mail

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): Further to the statement that I made to the House on the financing framework for Royal Mail letters business on 8 February this year I am pleased to confirm that this has now been completed and put in place. The legal documentation was finalised last Friday, 23 March, in line with the timetable I set out.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): Producer responsibility under the UK WEEE Regulations will begin from1 July 2007. Non-statutory Guidance to assist business affected by the regulations to understand their obligations and identify the most appropriate method to discharge them was published in February 2007. This document will be reviewed and amended on a regular basis to ensure clarity in light of experience.

In the early part of 2007 the DTI held a series of road-shows for producers and distributors across the UK. In addition the environment authorities arranged seminars for prospective Producer Compliance Schemes and the Distributor Take-back Scheme (DTS) operator held workshops to raise awareness of the opportunities the regulations offer Local Authorities. This awareness raising activity was supplemented by a number of placed articles and features in the trade press.

It is encouraging to see the active engagement of all affected parties involved. For example:

The environment authorities in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have approved 37 Producer Compliance Schemes to help producers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) discharge their obligations under the Regulations,

There is evidence of increased investment by the waste management and treatment sector to increase the existing capacity to deal with WEEE as it arises; and

Distributors and local authorities are working with the DTS operator to develop a network of designated collection facilities using the existing local authority waste collection infrastructure.

A public awareness campaign will begin in the coming months to inform consumers of the regulations and the positive role they can play in ensuring WEEE is separately collected, treated and reprocessed to the standards required by the regulations to secure the environmental benefits the WEEE system will offer.

At the time of laying the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE) 2006 (SI 3289), the Government indicated that they were considering introducing partial producer responsibility from 1 April 2007. However, following extensive discussions with industry, the Government have decided not to take this forward.

Officials within my Department will continue direct dialogue with trade associations and other representative bodies to ensure a practical, effective and workable WEEE system is established within the UK.

TRANSPORT

School Initiatives Grant

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander):

I would like to update the House about the grants to increase walking to school that I announced on 22 November 2006. I have today placed in the House

Libraries the grant determination under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of this grant.

This statement and the grant determination set out how the Department for Transport (DFT) intends to allocate the money for the first year (2007-8).

Funds will go to a total of 3,231 schools. The grant is targeted mainly at primary schools, and more than one in six primary schools across the country will receive this funding. 1,903 schools will receive grants to start, or significantly expand walking buses, and another 1,328 will receive grants to set up other walking initiatives. This new investment is expected to see the number of walking buses across England triple.

Funding in years two and three will be dependent on individual schools demonstrating they have saved the required number of extra car trips and expect to continue doing so.

These payments are being made as part of the Government's Travelling to School project to reduce car use for journeys to school. DFT is providing the money and is working closely with the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) and the Department of Health to integrate walking buses and other walking initiatives into the Healthy Schools initiative and promote healthier lifestyles.

The grants will be paid through DFES to Local Authorities (LAs) for onward transmission to the successful school through the DFES Standards Fund. This has been identified as the grant mechanism that is simplest to administer.

The grant determination sets out the amount each LA will receive. The amount distributed to each LA is based on the number of schools in their area that have made the required commitment and demonstrated a reasonable expectation of saving five return trips per school day for a walking bus, which will receive £1,000 a year. Other walking initiatives must save 2.5 return trips on average and will receive £500 a year.

The required number of car trips to be saved is based on an assessment of the number needed to ensure that the scheme represents high value for money, taking account of the environmental, health and other benefits from the walking buses and other walking initiatives.

I am also placing in the Libraries of the House an Explanatory Note, setting out the list of schools that will receive the grants.

DEFENCE

Depleted Uranium Oversight Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The Depleted Uranium Oversight Board (DUOB) was established in 2001 to oversee a screening programme for veterans of the 1991 Gulf conflict and subsequent Balkans operations concerned about possible exposure to depleted uranium. Testing based on the analysis of urine samples for trace quantities of uranium isotopes was offered between 2004 and 2006. A total of 496 applicants completed the test.

The final report of the DUOB is now available and can be accessed from the website www.duob.org.uk

The board was unable to achieve complete consensus on the interpretation and significance of the test results. However, no evidence of the excretion of depleted uranium was found in the urine of any of the test participants. According to mainstream scientific and medical opinion, this means that none had suffered an exposure to DU of sufficient magnitude likely to cause a risk to their health.

I welcome these findings and believe they will have provided valuable reassurance and peace of mind to the veterans concerned.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 27 March 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): On 30 January I announced that in response to our Invitation to Councils we had received 26 proposals from local authorities for the creation of unitary local government in their areas.

We have now completed our assessment of these proposals against the five criteria set out in the Invitation. These criteria are that change to future unitary structures must be affordable, and be supported by a broad cross section of partners and stakeholders; and the future structures must provide strong, effective and accountable strategic leadership, deliver genuine opportunities for neighbourhood flexibility and empowerment, and deliver value for money and equity on public services.

On the basis of this assessment my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has decided that the following unitary proposals will proceed to stakeholder consultation.

Councils Submitting Proposals	*Proposed unitary structure*
Bedford Borough Council	A unitary authority for Bedford
Bedfordshire County Council	A unitary authority for Bedfordshire
Cheshire County Council	A unitary authority for Cheshire
Chester City Council	Two unitary authorities for Cheshire
Cornwall County Council	A unitary authority for Cornwall
Cumbria County Council	A unitary authority for Cumbria
Durham County Council	A unitary authority for Durham
Exeter City Council	A unitary authority for Exeter
Ipswich Borough Council	A unitary authority for Ipswich
Northumberland County Council	A unitary authority for Northumberland
The Northumberland District Councils	Two unitary authorities for Northumberland
Norwich City Council	A unitary authority for Norwich on existing boundaries
North Yorkshire County Council	A unitary authority for North Yorkshire
Shropshire County Council	A unitary authority for Shropshire
Somerset County Council	A unitary authority for Somerset
Wiltshire County Council	A unitary authority for Wiltshire

In reaching her decision, my right hon. Friend has had regard to the submitted proposals, any supplementary material submitted by the proposers themselves, and other available relevant information. Her judgment is that there is at least a reasonable likelihood that these proposals, if implemented, would achieve the outcomes specified by the five criteria.

We are launching this consultation today, seeking the views of partners and stakeholders in the areas affected by the proposals. As the Invitation explains, partners and stakeholders include all local authorities, the wider public sector, the business community, and the voluntary and community sector. It is, however, open to anyone to respond to the consultation document that we are issuing today, copies of which are placed in the Library of the House.

We are in particular seeking views on the extent to which consultees believe the proposals would deliver the outcomes specified by the criteria, and in the case of the alternative proposals for Bedfordshire, Cheshire and Northumberland, which of the alternatives in each case would better deliver those outcomes.

The consultation will run until 22 June 2007.

After the stakeholder consultation, we will consider very carefully all the representations that we have received. Proposals will proceed to implementation if, and only if, when we take our final decisions, we remain satisfied that they meet the criteria, and that the overall use of reserves remains affordable, having regard to the prevailing fiscal position and the risks around the estimated costs of implementation.

As explained in our original Invitation, implementation of any proposals involving transitional costs financed by the use of reserves impacts on planned public expenditure totals. Any use of reserves must therefore in aggregate be within the limited envelope available.

It was because of this limited envelope that the Invitation stated that the Government think it unlikely that it would be able to implement more than eight proposals, but that this maximum number would not preclude the Government from deciding to implement more if they offered good value for money and were affordable.

If when we take our final decisions there are more proposals that meet the criteria than we can afford to implement, we will prioritise in order to decide which ones to implement. We will consult during our main stakeholder consultation on the proposed means of prioritising restructuring proposals in such circumstances.

If implemented, the proposals could, on the basis of current estimates, save up to around £200 million annually.

In those cases where there are alternative proposals, any decision on implementation will necessarily involve a decision as to which option should proceed. If we were to decide that Bedford Borough's proposal should proceed to implementation we may need to consider the future local government structures in the remaining county area, which might no longer be a viable two-tier area.

The legislative provision necessary to implement unitary proposals is contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill which is currently before the House.

Finally, in respect of the following proposals, my right hon. Friend has decided that, having regard to the available relevant information, there is not a reasonable likelihood that, if implemented, they would achieve all the outcomes specified in the five criteria, and that accordingly they should not proceed to stakeholder consultation.

Councils submitting Proposals	*Proposed unitary structure*
Mid and South Bedfordshire District Councils	A unitary authority covering mid and south Bedfordshire
The Cornwall District Councils	A unitary authority for Cornwall
The Durham District Councils	A unitary authority for Durham
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council	Three unitary authorities for Cheshire
East Riding of Yorkshire District Council	A unitary authority covering East Rising and Selby
Lancaster City Council	A unitary authority for Lancaster
Oxford City Council	Three unitary authorities for Oxfordshire
Burnley Borough Council	A unitary authority for Burnley
Preston City Council	A unitary authority for Preston
South Somerset District Council	Two unitary authorities for Somerset

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Compensation Act

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice): The Compensation Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 25 July 2006. Part 2 of the Act provides the statutory framework for the regulation of claims management services.

In line with the Government's commitment to bring the Act into force as soon as possible a third commencement order has been made. This brings into force the prohibition and offences sections.

From 23 April 2007 providing a regulated claims management service without authorisation, an exemption, being subject to a waiver or an individual acting otherwise than in the course of business will be prohibited. Those providing claims management services will be required to give consumers clear advice about the validity of their claim, options for funding the costs and provide a complaints mechanism if things go wrong. The claims regulation website at www.claimsregulation.gov.uk provides a register of all authorised persons.

This order follows the Compensation Act 2006 (Commencement No.1) (SI 2006/3005 (C. 107)) that came into force on 1 December 2006 allowing regulation to commence. The Compensation Act 2006 (Commencement No. 2) (SI 2007/94 (C.5)) came into force on 23 January 2007 formally establishing the Claims Management Services Tribunal.

DEFENCE

Chemical Protection Programme

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): The UK's chemical protection programme is designed to protect against the use of chemical weapons. Such a programme is permitted by the Chemical Weapons Convention, with which the United Kingdom is fully compliant. Under the terms of the Convention, we are required to provide information annually to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. In accordance with the Government's commitment to openness, I am placing in the Library of the House a copy of the summary that has been provided to the Organisation outlining the UK's chemical protection programme in 2006.

Defence Medical Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): Over the past 12 months the Ministry of Defence has undertaken a thorough review of the Defence Medical Services (DMS) manpower requirement. The aim of this review was to determine the number of uniformed, regular DMS personnel required to support operations consistent with overall Defence Planning Assumptions, provide full healthcare and allow for continued training and the provision of headquarters staff during deployment. The review has now been completed and I am now in a position to inform the House of the new DMS manpower requirement. I am convinced it provides a credible baseline on which the DMS can base its planning and ensure that the excellent level of healthcare which it provides both on operations and, in collaboration with the NHS, in the UK, is sustained into the future.

The last full review of the DMS uniformed regular manpower requirement took place at the time of the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) over eight years ago, and produced a requirement for a grand total of 8,970 posts (the 'SDR total'). This however exceeded the available medical manpower, and subsequent experience in support of deployed operations showed that a different balance of medical specialisms was more appropriate. Hence a lower overall figure was adopted as a pragmatic interim basis for funding a different mix of established posts (the 'established liability'). To ensure that the requirement was valid not just in the light of emerging practice on operations since SDR, but also to be consistent with current defence-wide planning assumptions, a formal review was undertaken, starting in January 2006. The review was carried out by the multi-disciplinary Medical Operational Capability (Med Op Cap) project team, drawing on previous studies, lessons learned work, high-level operational analysis and incorporating military judgment.

The overall result of this work is that the DMS baseline uniformed regular manning requirement (the 'Med Op Cap requirement') has now been set at 7,573 posts plus an additional manning and training margin of 678, making a grand total of 8,251 posts.

This compares to the previous established liability of 7,741 posts plus a manning and training margin of 543, making a grand total of 8,284 posts.

The SDR grand total of 8,970 posts did not separately specify within it a manning and training margin.

As at 1 January 2007, the uniformed regular manning was 6,497 (namely, the number of people we actually have, rather than the number of posts required).

There are also some significant changes within individual medical cadres between the SDR and the Med Op Cap requirement, with some cadres increasing and some decreasing. Some additional potential for civilianisation of up to 320 posts in the Med Op Cap total requirement was identified by the review, which will be investigated further.

I shall place full details of the new requirements against individual cadres in the Library of the House. It is a necessarily complex package, but one which provides an essential building-block for the DMS to focus its efforts on addressing the most critical shortfalls.

The impact of the new requirement on the individual career paths for personnel in the Royal Navy, Army and RAF Medical Services will be small. The review has validated the existing policy of maximising capability from staffing our Field Hospitals on a collaborative tri-Service basis.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the DMS continues to be sufficiently flexible to respond to future operational challenges. The recent review of the DMS uniformed regular manpower requirement is a necessary and positive step to achieving this.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): I represented the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels.

The Council adopted conclusions on the Commission communication on employment in rural areas, stressing the development of job creation in rural areas.

The Council reached a unanimous political agreement on a Presidency compromise proposal, laying down rules for voluntary modulation (VM) in light of the December 2005 European Council future financing agreement for 2007-2013. I voted in favour of the compromise text, as it delivered the flexibility we had argued for with regards to applying voluntary modulation on a regional basis without a franchise applying. I also indicated that the UK will make a formal declaration at the time the regulation is adopted which states that: all four regions of the UK would use VM; the rate would be below 20 per cent.; and that in England we would spend 80 per cent. of VM receipts on environmental measures and would co-finance these at a significant level. A joint declaration was also made by the Council and Commission emphasising that VM and all pillar two funding arrangements should be reviewed in the context of the CAP Healthcheck.

The Presidency and Commission summed up the informal lunchtime discussion on implementation of controls in the food chain. The Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner urged all Member States to implement EU food law fully and effectively. The Presidency too called on all Member States to maintain Community standards, whilst acknowledging that EU food safety legislation needed to be kept under review with particular emphasis on reducing unnecessary administrative burdens.

There was a policy debate on the Commission's simplification proposal on the common organisation of agricultural markets, based on three Presidency questions: timing of inclusion of the fruit and vegetable and wine sectors; transfer of competence from Council to Commission; abolition of Pigmeat intervention. The proposal aims to consolidate the existing 21 sector-specific Common Market Organisations into a single Regulation, in an effort to streamline and simplify the legal framework. Along with other Member States, I broadly supported the Commission's proposal as an important step in the CAP simplification action plan and agreed that a case-by-case approach should be taken to the transfer of competence for implementing powers from the Council to the Commission. Some Member States did not agree to the inclusion of the fruit and vegetables and wine sectors in the Single Common Market Organisation in advance of the reform of those sectors, and opposed the abolition of pigmeat intervention.

A number of issues were raised under any other business, none of which required any intervention on behalf of the United Kingdom. These were as follows:

The Environment Commissioner presented the Commission's Soil Thematic Strategy, for information only, as it falls within Environment Council competence. A number of Member States expressed concern at the administrative burdens the proposed strategy would have on agriculture and argued for the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity as previously discussed at January Council.

The Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner gave a written update on Avian Influenza and reported on the recent EC-Russian Federation veterinary agreement negotiations.

The Presidency updated the Council on the outcomes of two recent conferences: "Fuelling the Future—Renewable Resources" and "Prevention for Health—Nutrition and Physical Activity—A Key to Healthy Living."

The Agriculture Commissioner updated Council on the state of play of the WTO Agriculture negotiations following her bilateral contacts with some WTO partners (United States, India, Brazil and Japan). She said that despite fruitful technical discussions there had been no breakthrough in negotiations. In reply to some Member States, the Commissioner confirmed that the EU's position in the negotiations is still its offer from October 2005.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Correction to Oral Answer

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): My noble Friend Lord Triesman of Tottenham has made the following written ministerial statement.

On 22 February, *Official Report*, column 1241 during the Lords debate on Iraq, in response to a question by my noble Friend Baroness Gould of Potternewton, I said that 'the review of the constitution is due to end on 15 May 2007, and I assure my noble Friend that the removal of article 41 indeed remains one of our objectives'.

I should have said that the Constitutional Review Committee, which was formed on 15 November 2006, is due to present its proposed amendments for the Council of Representative's consideration by mid-May 2007, and that while there is no stipulated time frame for the whole review process, Iraq's political party leaders have committed to completing the constitutional review process, including the required referendum, within a year of the review committee forming. We are making clear to the Government of Iraq that article 41 must be implemented in a way that does not contravene the various human rights provisions in the Iraqi constitution. I apologise to my noble Friend and to the House for this inadvertent error.

We are also supporting Iraqi women's groups with concerns about the impact of the constitution—helping them make their voices heard. We will continue to press the Government of Iraq about the important role of women in society and to develop policies and laws in line with the constitution which states that all people should be treated equally irrespective of gender, race or ethnicity.

HEALTH

Modernising Medical Careers

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): In my statement to the House on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, col 557-8, I set out the background to the review of the new national recruitment and selection process for doctors in postgraduate training. I outlined the decisions that had been made by the review group up to that date. As the review group continued to meet last week, the purpose of this statement is to provide a further update on progress.

The review group issued a further statement on 22 March. This said:

"Building on last week's announcement, at a minimum, every long-listable applicant who applied through Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) and meets the eligibility criteria for their relevant specialty will be invited for an interview. Under this guaranteed interview scheme, candidates will be able to choose which of their preferences to be interviewed for in light of geographic specialty-specific and specialty training level-specific competition ratios which will be available on the MTAS website. We are in discussion about the implications of this for the timetable.

The recruitment system has worked satisfactorily for general practice and this will continue. In other specialities, there is evidence that the short-listing process was weak and we will therefore eliminate this part of the process immediately. In contrast, the interview process has been working and therefore the revised approach will ensure that all long-listable candidates will be interviewed. The review group believes that this new approach is the most equitable and practical solution available. The group also recognises the enormous effort by the consultants, service and deans that has already taken place to ensure that the interview process has worked. The time and effort required for further interviews is recognised by the service and the time required will be made available. Therefore first choice interviews that have already taken place should not need to be repeated.

In accordance with the advice already issued, we reiterate that all interviews will be informed by the use of CVs and portfolios and probing questions.

In broad terms, this means that all eligible applicants at every stage of their training, whether or not they have already had interviews or interview offers, will be able to review their stated first choice preference and have the opportunity to select the one for which they want to be interviewed. We will be discussing operational details over the next week and these may differ between specialties and between different parts of the UK dependent on local circumstances. We will also consult widely. Exact details for how applicants will be able to do this will be available week commencing 2 April on the MMC website at www.mmc.nhs.uk. In the meantime, interviews will continue and applicants should attend unless they are confident that this will not be their preferred choice.

No job offers will be made until all these interviews have taken place. Discussions are taking place on the implications of this for the filling of General Practice training places. We expect that the majority of training places will be filled through these interviews. Unfilled vacancies will be filled through further interviews.

The review group has recommended the development of a programme of career support for applicants at all stages of the process. Further details to support applicants, deans and selectors through this process will be available next week on the MMC website. Future work will explore what the possibilities might be for doctors to change specialties."

This represents a reasonable way forward to meet both the aspirations of junior doctors and the timetable for making appointments for August. I therefore regret the fact that the British Medical Association representatives have withdrawn from the group. Despite this, the important work of the review group will continue and I would encourage the British Medical Association representatives to come back to the table to ensure that all stakeholders can work together to take forward a workable solution to these issues.

I am glad to note that the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges supports this revised approach. They believe that with the work of the review group it offers the most equitable and practical solution available.

The timetable for the group's work is very tight and the next two weeks will see important progress. Applicants, consultants, employers and all those with a stake in the process will be anxious to be kept informed of progress. I trust that the House will understand if we continue to issue updates on important developments during the recess.

As ever, I am very grateful to Professor Douglas and his colleagues for their continuing work on the review group. We will publish the group's final report once it is completed.

TRANSPORT

Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group and Government Car Despatch Agency

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has set a range of high-level targets for the 2007-08 year on behalf of the agencies within the Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group; the Driving Standards Agency, the Driver and

Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Vehicle Certification Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and on behalf of the Government Car Despatch Agency. They are included in the agencies' business plans together with their associated measures. The plans also include a range of management targets, performance indicators and key tasks which are appropriate to the agencies' businesses. Copies of the business plans will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses shortly.

The key targets for the Driving Standards Agency are:

Appointments available within 9 weeks at 90% of permanent car driving test centres.

To achieve candidate satisfaction with the overall service received at 90% or above.

Improve standards of new drivers.
Deliver 6,000 Arrive Alive presentations to include 10% targeted at special needs groups such as young offenders, older drivers and people with disabilities.

Improve standards of professional drivers:
To have 10-training courses accredited as suitable for lorry drivers CPC Periodic Training and 30 for bus and coach drivers by 31 March 2008

Contribute to the Government's Motorcycle Strategy by
Populating the new Post Test Motorcycle Register with qualified and quality assured motorcycle instructors/trainers and make it available to the public by 31 March 2008 so they can make an informed choice of trainer/instructor.
Delivering an interactive Ultimate Biking Skills DVD to retail, aimed at improving a resource for qualified motorcyclists to improve riding and safety.
Develop a national network of test centres to enable off-road tests for motorcyclists, with a milestone target for March 2008 of 40% of customers being within 45 minutes/20 miles of such a centre.

To initiate 3 new pilot projects aimed at improving driver education and training and raising standards of high risk groups such as novice drivers.

To progress to conclusion 250 investigations in relation to impersonation/ID fraud and actively seek prosecutions where applicable.

Electronic take-up - Achieve 64% of theory test bookings and 64% of car practical test bookings being made on-line by 31 March 2008.

Deliver the value for money plan targets for 2007-08 (£6m).

The key targets for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are:

Maintain or improve customer satisfaction at a rate of 90%
The annual DVLA Customer Satisfaction Survey

Maintain or improve on the standard of services to the customer.
Achieve target for at least 16 of the 18 major service deliver measures.

Deliver customer choice for operational services through increasing the number of inbound services available via electronic channels.
Maintain volume of existing inbound services available that could be completed electronically, at 64% of the total inbound service volume by 2008.
Deliver the facility for customers to purchase personalised registration numbers online.
Complete the system build enabling vehicles to be tracked through the motor trade.
Deliver the facility for driving licence holders to electronically:
Renew their driving licence at 70
Notify a change of address
Request duplicate licence
Request a new-style licence.

Gershon Efficiency - Deliver the benefits agreed in the DVO Value for Money Plan:
1. Revenue expenditure gain
2. Workforce change
3. Increase in VED collected
4. Increase the net income realised from the sale of personalised registration numbers and income from cherished transfers

The running rate to achieve the final 2007-08 VFM targets are:
1. A total of £50 m compared to the baseline as at 1 April 2004.
2. Reduce the number of FTE posts by 575 compared with the 1 April 2004 figure.
3. Achieve a level of at least £70m above the 2002-03 Roadside Survey result.
4. A £5m increase compared to the baseline as at 1st April 2004.

To deliver a programme of e-service capability across the consumer commercial and business sectors.
Volume of inbound services delivered electronically is at least 30% of the inbound volume available electronically by March 2008.

Accurate Records - Vehicles Register: Maintain 97.5% of current vehicle keepers as the level to be successfully traced from the record.
Accuracy Survey 2007.

Drivers and Vehicles Registers—The data sets needed for an intended purpose are accurate.
To achieve complete accuracy in at least 97.5% of vehicle registration documents input.
To achieve complete accuracy in at least 97% of driving applications input.

Enforcement - Reduce VED evasion to 2.5% by December 2007 [This target is subject to review].
The Annual Roadside Survey.

Continue to work with Transport for London in the delivery of their Mayor's Air Quality Strategy.
Support Transport for London in their work to introduce the London Low Emission Zone by their due date.

The key targets for the Vehicle Certification Agency are:

To provide a class-leading service in: type approval and certification.
90% turnaround of system and component type approval certificates within 9 working days.
95% of appraisal reports on our technical performance from independent panel members deemed to have no critical defects.
Expand consistency of processes and standards across the global network.

Maintain (or improve) customer satisfaction levels.
Existing customer survey processes to be run in 2007-08 and maintain at least 4/5 score (Very Good).

To ensure the continued integrity of VCA's approvals.
Carry out a programme of Conformity of Production inspections.

Target new emerging manufacturing markets to ensure that products fully meet EU standards.
Increase number of certificates issued by VCA in China and India by 10% on 2006-07.

To monitor compliance of safety critical vehicle systems and components in the UK marketplace to meet EU standards.
Complete the test programme to be agreed with TTS/CFU/MIU.

Delivery of recommendations made in the VCA/TTS report on the use of virtual tools.
Delivery in Q1 of final VCA/TTS report.
Identify VCA tools and techniques by December 2007.
Formulate forward programme by December 2007.

To carry out and enforce an annual programme of in-service emissions testing.
Complete programme by March 2008.

Improve utilisation year on year.
Increase utilisation by an additional 2% points. (Aim is 63% by 2010/11 - 2% points is targeted to achieve 60% in 2007-08).

To achieve a surplus on a full cost basis and deliver benefits consistent with the Value for Money plan.
To achieve £50k surplus on a full costs basis.
Deliver the benefits consistent in the Value for Money Plan maintaining at least £450k of cost savings and efficiency and effectiveness improvements.
Invest £100k in professional skills and capability development.

The key targets for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are:

Maintain or improve customer satisfaction.
To improve on the previous year's achievement, or maintain satisfaction at or above 90%.

Increase range of electronic services available to customers.
Delivered portfolio of information services.
Operator compliance Risk Score reports.
Test History Maintenance reports.
Vehicle Encounter reports.
On-line vehicle test bookings service available to commercial customers.

Improve the consistency of vehicle testing services across the country.
83rd reduction in the variation of the initial test fail rates from 2006-07 national average whilst maintaining quality test standards.

Improve the quality and consistency of the private vehicle testing service to the public.
Delivered a risk based enforcement system to target the serious and serially non-compliant Vehicle Testing Stations (VTS).

Contribute to improved road safety through better targeting on non-compliant vehicles and drivers.
65% improvement in targeting of enforcement action at the roadside compared with 2004-05.
35% increase in the number of dangerous vehicles and drivers being taken off the road compared with 2004-05.

Contribute to more reliable journeys on the strategic road network, improved road safety, minimised congestion.
20% increase in volumes of checks nationally on 'at risk' goods vehicles on international journeys compared with 2006-07.

Reduce the burden of commercial operation.
Implemented DfT plan for licensing reform.
Delivered DfT plan for Graduated Fixed Penalties and Deposits.

Deliver modernised support services to Traffic Commissioners.
80% of new Service Level Agreement measures with Traffic Commissioners achieved.

Deliver final year of VOSA's 4-year Value for Money Plan.
4 year cumulative plan delivered.
£13.3m cost saving.
469 gross headcount reduction.*
10% increase in effectiveness.
** 109 can be redirected into front-line enforcement activity.*

Increase the take-up of existing electronic services available to customers.
69% overall take-up achieved for existing e-services.

The key targets for the Government Car and Despatch Agency are:

To break even on an accruals basis

To maintain a high level of customer satisfaction through the following:
To maintain a Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) score at least at 2005-06 levels of 86.7%.
To maintain accreditation for ISO 9001.

To reduce the environmental impact of the Agency
By March 2008 to reduce the average tailpipe emissions of the Government fleet by 5% compared with March 2007 levels.
To increase the use of alternative engine and fuel technology in GCDA vehicles by 10% by March 2008 against 2006-07 levels.

To reduce the administrative charges to customers by 2% against 2006-2007.

' Secretary of State Targets (target measures are italicised)

TRANSPORT

Highways Agency

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): The Highways Agency's business plan for 2007-08 is published today and contains eight key performance indicators for the Agency to deliver against by 31 March 2008. The indicators and associated targets are:

Indicator	*07-08 Target*
Deliver the PSA target to make journeys more reliable on the strategic road network by 2007-08.	Make journeys more reliable on the strategic road network by ensuring that the average vehicle delay on the 10% slowest journeys is less in 2007-08 than the baseline period.
Deliver the programme of improvements to the strategic road network.	Open at least 23 major national and regional schemes between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008. Develop a target by 30 September 2007 to measure progress in developing and delivering major schemes, and in the meantime continue to work towards achieving by 31 March 2008, at least 2666 of 2806 progress points for delivery of the strategic roads programme. Complete a cumulative total of at least 85 priority action sites at junctions.
Deliver improvements to journeys by making information available to influence travel behaviour and inform decisions.	Implement the new driver information services in line with the timetable agreed in the business cases approved by Ministers in 2006-07, and develop further services for Ministerial consideration during 2007-08. Evaluate the benefits of the voluntary travel plans introduced in 2006-07 and introduce at least 18 travel plans (making a cumulative total of least 26). Implement high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane at the junction of the M806 and M62.
Deliver the Agency's agreed proportion of the national road casualty reduction target.	By 2010 reduce by a third (i.e. to 2244) the number of people killed or seriously injured on the core network compared with the 1994-98 average of 3366. Reduce by at least 841 to 2525 by 31 March 2008.
Maintain the network in a safe and serviceable condition.	Maintain road surface condition index of 100 ± 1 within the renewal of roads budget, and develop a value for money indicator by September 2007.
Mitigate the potentially adverse impact of strategic roads and take the opportunities to enhance the environment taking into account value for money. Deliver the Highways Agency's contribution to the Department's Joint PSA target for air quality.	Achieve an average score of no less than 95% across the five sub-targets: Air Quality: implement measures to improve the air quality in at least 2 prioritised Air Quality Management Areas - AQMAs (making a cumulative total of six completed improvements in the 32 priority areas) Biodiversity: achieve at least 7% of the published HA Biodiversity Action Plan, which extends across 15 targets (making a cumulative total of 48% of the HA BAP completed) Landscape: introduce at least nine planting schemes to enhance the landscape Noise: treat at least 900 lane km of road surface with lower noise surfacing of which 20 lane km are on concrete roads Water Quality: treat at least four of the high priority pollution risk water outfall sites Improve the environmental performance of major schemes by improving the average score for the environmental sub-criteria in the Appraisal Summary Table, in at least five out of the 10 sub-criteria.
Deliver a high level of road user satisfaction.	Improve road user satisfaction by reducing the gap between the 2006-07 targets and total road user satisfaction by 5% across core objectives: Journey reliability and congestion Safety Environment
Deliver the Highways Agency's contribution to the Department's efficiency target.	Deliver efficiency improvements in roads procurement through adding value to service delivery of £200 million in 2007-08. Deliver our programme within the allocated administration budget, which requires an efficiency improvement of at least £1 million.

Explanatory notes against each of these indicators are provided in the business plan, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): Today I am publishing "Working for Children" (Cm:7067) which includes our response to recommendations made in the report "Delivering on Child Poverty: what would it take?" by Lisa Harker in November 2006. It is only one element of a cross-governmental child poverty strategy and sets out the additional measures DWP will take to maximise its contribution to the ambitious targets of halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020.

Building on the announcements made in the Budget to take a further 200,000 children out of poverty by increasing tax credits and widen support for parents, "Working for Children" refocuses £150 million of resources within the Department for Work and Pensions towards greater support for families.

Measures include:

Piloting a New Deal for Families approach so more families get access to support that is often only available for lone parents. To do this we will extend support available in the New Deal for Lone Parents Plus pilot areas to all families with children in those areas.

Extending the New Deal for Lone Parents Plus scheme to help more lone parents benefit from this service and signalling initial support ahead of a period of consultation for recommendations from David Freud to increase obligations on lone parents with older children to look for work.

Providing more support to families, particularly in London where employment rates lag, including widening and improving the in-work credit scheme which provides additional financial support for lone parents as they make the transition to work.

Changing Jobcentre Plus systems so parents are properly identified in the benefit system for the first time and record the childcare needs and preferences of all parents - not just lone parents as at present.

Providing advice and support for the partners of parents claiming Jobseekers Allowance, with the introduction of mandatory six-monthly work-focused interviews for this group.

We have made significant progress by lifting 600,000 children out of relative poverty since the Prime Minister set the historic target in 1998 to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Our success in helping people into work has been key to reducing child poverty. We have seen 2.5 million more people in work than in 1997 and there are now over 1 million lone parents in employment. We need to continue to build on this success but recognise there is more to do if we are to reach our goal.

Copies of the report are available from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Households Below Average Income

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I am publishing today Households Below Average Income 1994-95 – 2005-06.

This is the 18th edition of the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. This report presents information on potential living standards in the United Kingdom as determined by disposable income in 2005-06, and changes in income patterns over time.

Housing Benefit (Antisocial Behaviour Sanctions)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): I am pleased to announce the local authorities that have been chosen to pilot a sanction of Housing Benefit linked to anti-social behaviour. The sanction, contained in the Welfare Reform Bill (Clause 31), is part of the Respect programme and would apply where a household has been evicted for anti-social behaviour and subsequently refuses to engage with rehabilitation services offered. It will give local authorities an additional tool for tackling anti-social behaviour in order to achieve a culture of self-respect, respect for others and respect for community.

The intention is to pilot the scheme for a period of two years (subject to the Bill receiving Royal Assent) in the following local authorities:

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Blackpool Borough Council
Dover District Council
Manchester City Council
New Forest District Council
Newham London Borough Council
South Gloucestershire Council
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 28 March 2007

TREASURY

Financial Inclusion

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): The Government are today publishing a document, "Financial inclusion: the way forward", setting out general principles for its ongoing financial inclusion strategy.

The Government have three goals for financial inclusion:

that everyone should be able to manage their money effectively and securely, through having access to a bank account, and the confidence and capability to get the most from it;

that everyone should be able to plan for the future with a reasonable degree of security. Therefore, affordable credit, simple insurance products should be available to all who need them; and

that everyone should have the information, support and confidence they need to prevent avoidable financial difficulty, and to know where to turn if they do find themselves in financial distress.

"Financial inclusion: the way forward" affirms the Government's commitment to promoting financial inclusion in the next spending period. From 2008 to 2011, financial inclusion policy will be supported through a new Financial Inclusion Fund. While the amount of the fund will be determined after the Comprehensive Spending Review, the current level of intensity of action to promote financial inclusion will be maintained.

A detailed action plan will be developed by a cross-Departmental ministerial working group, which will report after the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Financial Inclusion Taskforce, which monitors progress and advises the Government on financial inclusion policy, will be extended until March 2011.

The document also announces further spending on financial inclusion in 2007-08; £6 million will be made available to the Department for Work and Pensions, to support credit unions and Community Development Finance Institutions in making affordable credit and banking services available to financially excluded consumers.

The document details progress made to date with financial inclusion objectives. The Government agreed a goal, shared with the banks, to halve the number of people living without access to a bank account. The number of adults living in households without access to a bank account fell from 2.8 million in 2002-03, to 2 million in 2005-06. The number of unbanked households also fell, from 1.9 million to 1.3 million, during the same period. Steady progress is being made with Government's shared goal.

The document announces the Government's continued commitment to working with banks and other financial services providers to reduce the number of unbanked people further, and to promote wider financial inclusion. The Government have asked senior representatives from the banking sector to work with the Financial Inclusion Taskforce to consider how to achieve a nationwide increase in the coverage and capacity of third sector lenders such as credit unions.

As announced in the 2006 pre-Budget Report, the Government asked Brian Pomeroy, Chair of the Financial Inclusion Taskforce, to conduct a review of Christmas savings clubs and hamper schemes. Following the collapse of Farepak in November 2006, the purpose of this review was to increase understanding of who uses these schemes and why, and also to consider how the saving needs of this group of consumers might be better met by mainstream financial products. The review is published today by the Treasury.

The Government have responded to the recommendations made in the review in today's financial inclusion document. Its response includes an announcement that the Department of Trade and Industry has secured agreement from the hamper industry to establish an industry-led scheme to ensure that consumers' interests are fully protected. The scheme will establish secure, ring-fenced accounts, and will be implemented as soon as possible.

The Government also announce that £1 million will be made available to the Office of Fair Trading to run a consumer awareness campaign. This campaign will inform consumers of the options available to them, including mainstream accounts, for saving towards Christmas.

Other responses to the Pomeroy review from the Government were as follows:

the OFT has agreed to investigate the findings of the Pomeroy review in full, and whether a further inquiry into competition in the market for Christmas saving schemes is needed;

following encouragement and support from the Government, credit unions are now offering Christmas saving accounts with a lock-in. The Post Office also has plans to launch a Christmas saving account. The Government have asked the Financial Inclusion Taskforce to monitor developments, and consider what further detailed actions are needed to expand community-based provision of saving;

the Thoresen review of a national approach to generic financial advice will consider how to provide better generic advice on informal saving;

the Government's financial inclusion campaign, "now let's talk money", is working with local charities and community organisations to promote credit unions as an alternative to hamper schemes;

the FSA will enhance the saving information on its MoneyMadeClear website by including information about Christmas hamper schemes; and

the new Wealth and Assets Survey will collect information on informal saving. The Government will use the first results of the survey, due by the end of the year, to inform any further data gathering.

The Treasury Committee conducted an inquiry into financial inclusion in the spring of 2006, and published three reports detailing its findings, in November and December 2006. The Government have sent their response to the inquiry to the Treasury Committee today.

Copies of both "Financial inclusion: the way forward" and the Pomeroy review of Christmas savings are available in the Vote Office and in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leasing Business Premises (Code of Practice)

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): I wish to make a statement about Government policy on commercial leases and the launch of a new property industry Code of Practice for Leasing Business Premises.

The starting point is the need for a modern, efficient, competitive industry. The UK commercial property industry is acknowledged as one of the foremost and sophisticated in the world, exporting its expertise globally.

However, the Government challenge to the industry is to provide a flexible framework, creating a new partnership between owner and occupier. Our policy is based on careful and thorough research of the property market.

We have had a positive and collaborative response from all sides of the industry—owners, occupiers, small business organisations and the professional bodies. The industry has developed new ways of working, setting up the Owner and Occupiers' Forum and the Property Industry Alliance. Alongside this, Government have been working with business to bring about change.

The outcome has been agreement on a new Code, which I am launching today. This comprises three documents: a Landlord's Code of Practice, an Occupier Guide and Model Heads of Terms. The Landlord's Code is significantly stronger in tone and content than the previous Code, while the occupier guide and model heads of terms are designed to improve business understanding of lease terms, helping them to get more suitable lease terms.

It is essential the industry follows this through, and I welcome plans for wide dissemination of the Code. My challenge to the industry is to ensure that the Code is used in all lease negotiations.

The British Property Federation are introducing an accreditation scheme identifying landlords who are committed to the new Code. This will include an independent complaints procedure. I hope the professional bodies will introduce similar arrangements for their members.

I recognise the considerable changes in commercial leasing practices over recent years, especially the trends towards shorter leases. But I am concerned about continuing elements of inflexibility, particularly the predominant use of upward only provisions in rent review clauses and inflexible provisions for tenants exiting property they no longer need.

We will want to keep a close eye on market practice in these areas. If the market does not deliver, we have identified legislative options. Communities and Local Government will shortly be consulting the bodies that drew up the Code about suitable monitoring arrangements.

Copies of the Code for Leasing Business Premises will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Her Majesty's Land Registry

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has made the following written ministerial statement:

"The following list sets out the key performance targets that have been set for Her Majesty's Land Registry for 2007-08.

Customer Service

Speed:

Percentage of Official Copy and Search applications processed within two working days: 98% Percentage of all registrations processed within 18 working days: 80%

Accuracy:

Percentage of registrations processed free of any error: 98.5%

Overall Satisfaction[1]*:*

Percentage of customers who, overall, are very satisfied/satisfied with the full range of services provided by Land Registry: Better than 95%

Financial

Percentage return on average capital employed: 3.5%

Efficiency[2]

Cost per unit in cash terms[3] (real terms)[4]: £29.95 (£20.61)

Strategic Development Areas

Customer Service

Provide a sustainable and scaleable e-security infrastructure solution, providing role-based access, identity management and future e-signature functionality for Land Registry's external and business customer base.

Land Registration

Add a further 550,000 hectares of land to the total areas of registered freehold land in England and Wales.

Electronic Service Delivery

Complete a review of responses to the consultation paper on the Land Registration (Network Access) Rules and the Land Registration (Electronic Communications) Order and report to Ministers.

Other Business Development

Move the Land Registry corporate website to the new portal and establish the portal for the use of one or more of the following segments: citizens, conveyancers, lenders, estate agents.

[1]Result from quarterly satisfaction survey.

[2]Agreed with HM Treasury on 20 December 2006.

[3]Based on the GDP deflator issued by HM Treasury on 21 December 2006 (base year 1992-93).

[4]The real term unit cost in the base year of 1992-93 was £30.65

	Target 2006-07	*Performance as at January 2007 (unless otherwise stated)*	*Target 2007-08*
Customer Service			*Customer Service*
Speed			*Speed*
Percentage of official copy and search applications processed within two working days	98	98	98
Percentage of all registrations processed within 18 working days	80	88.6	80
Accuracy			Accuracy
Percentage of registrations processed free of any error	98.5	98.85	98.5

	Target 2006-07	*Performance as at January 2007 (unless otherwise stated)*	*Target 2007-08*
Overall Satisfaction[1]			Overall Satisfaction[1]
Percentage of customers who, overall, are very satisfied/satisfied with the full range of services provided by Land Registry	Better than 95%	98.5	Better than 95%
Financial			Financial
Percentage return on average capital employed	3.5%	17.6	3.5%
Efficiency[2]			Efficiency
Cost per unit in cash terms[3] (real terms)[4]	£29.95 (£21.17)	£25.93 (£18.33)	Cost per unit in cash terms[3] £29.95 (real terms)[4] (20.61)

[1]Result from quarterly satisfaction survey (Ytd Quarter 3), next result due April 2007.
[2]This is a final year target towards the HM Treasury-agreed cost per unit target for 2006-07 of £29.95 in cash terms (£21.17 in real terms). Target adjusted for revised pension costs.
[3]Based on the GDP deflator issued by HM Treasury on 21 December 2006 (base year 1992-93)
[4]The real term unit cost in the base year of 1992-93 was £30.65.

Strategic Development Areas		*Strategic Development Areas*
Customer Service		*Customer Service*
Introduce imagery bases access to Land Register Online	Achieved	Provide a sustainable and scaleable e security infrastructure solution, providing role-based access, identity management and future e-signature functionality, for Land Registry's external and business customer base.
Land Registration		*Land Registration*
Add a further 700,000 hectares[5] of land to the total areas of registered freehold land in England and Wales	Achieved	Add a further 550,000 hectares of land to the total areas of registered freehold land in England and Wales.
Electronic Service Delivery		*Electronic Service Delivery*
Introduce prototype chain matrix service to provide transparency to residential conveyancing chains	On target	Complete a review of responses to the consultation paper on the Land Registration (Network Access) Rules and the Land Registration (Electronic Communications) Order and report to Ministers.
Other Business Development		Other Business Development
Establish a Land Registry Portal as a first step in implementing a single integrated customer interface for all online Land Registry information and services.	Achieved	Carry out the migration of all Land Register Online services to the Land Registry Portal.

DEFENCE

Agency Changes

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): With effect from 1 April 2007, the Defence Procurement Agency (DPA), the British Forces Post Office (BFPO), the Defence Communication Services Agency (DCSA), the Disposal Services Agency (DSA), Defence Estates (DE), the Defence Bills Agency (DBA) and the Duke of York's Royal Military School (DYRMS) will cease to hold agency status. It has also been decided that the Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) should be closed later this year.

Given that many of the reasons for making these organisations agencies are now embedded in the wider department, particularly for those that are also Top Level Budgets, agency status now adds little value.

In recognition of this, the "Enabling Acquisition Change" (EAC) Report of June 2006 recommended that, in creating a new integrated procurement and support organisation, neither the new organisation (Defence Equipment and Support) nor any of its sub-divisions should retain agency status. Agency status is accordingly being removed not only from the DPA, which is currently a Top Level Budget, but also from the BFPO, DCSA and DSA. Only the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency will retain its agency status in the new Defence Equipment and Support organisation.

Agency status will also be removed from DE, which will remain a Top Level Budget. Oversight of DE by the Defence Estates Committee will also continue.

Removal of agency status from the DBA has been precipitated by the advent of MOD's new financial management Shared Service Centre, which has responsibility for end-to-end accounting processes.

Removal of agency status from the DYRMS will bring it into line with other state maintained boarding schools.

In addition, although the Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) does not have the same formal agency status as the organisations mentioned above, the Department also wishes to announce the conclusions of the consultation process into its future, which began last September.

The DDA was formed in 1999 to encourage the civil exploitation of defence technology; help inform industry about MOD's future equipment needs; and facilitate the spin-in of civil technology to defence. However, since it was formed, the environment in which it operates has fundamentally changed.

Regarding the civil exploitation of defence technology, the creation of QinetiQ in July 2001 transferred three-quarters of the MOD's Science and Technology base directly into a company with strong commercial incentives to

exploit defence technologies in civil markets. In 2005, the MOD's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory established Ploughshare Innovation Ltd as a direct route for diversification and commercial exploitation of its intellectual property. Ploughshare has demonstrated growing success in this role: developing new licensing agreements; managing a technology innovation fund, and creating three new spin-out companies

In terms of spinning-in new technology, the MOD's research programme has been progressively opened to competition, encouraging a broader range of suppliers to become directly involved in the supply of defence technology. Recent initiatives, such as the formation of Defence Technology Centres and the "Competition of Ideas", have also provided new ways to encourage innovation. On the equipment side, the recent review of acquisition policy supports the conclusion that, the route to market for Small Medium Enterprises in defence should be via prime contractors rather than directly to the Department.

When it comes to informing industry about the Department's requirements, there have also been significant changes since the formation of the DDA. The Defence Industrial Strategy in 2005 set out publicly the technologies and capabilities required to support future defence requirements. In 2006, the Defence Technology Strategy identified our priorities for Research and Development. It identifies the actions the defence sector must take to maintain an appropriate level of R and D investment in those areas key to defence capability and national competitiveness. Taken together, these strategies, and the work in hand across MOD to implement them, generate a more direct engagement with industry than was possible through the DDA.

Consultation on the future of the DDA has included discussions with industry, Defence Trade Associations, and Trade Unions. Our conclusion is that, given the changes over the last eight years which have embedded diversification into the Department's wider activities, there is no longer a requirement for a separate organisation to facilitate the diversification role. Consequently, the Department has decided to proceed with the closure of the DDA.

The DDA has been a good champion for diversification, and we would like to thank the Director and staff for their significant contribution. Attempts will now start to find alternative employment for the 35 staff, most of whom are on secondment from other organisations. We will engage with stakeholders to ensure that remaining issues are resolved effectively, and that the value of information generated within the DDA is not lost. In parallel with this announcement, the Department will be writing in more detail to the DDA's stakeholders.

This decision does not lessen the Government's commitment to diversification and technology transfer. As highlighted in the Defence Industrial Strategy this remains an important objective and one which we are fully committed to meeting through the mechanisms which I have described above. These initiatives are all evidence of the continuing importance we place on maintaining momentum in this key area.

Deepcut Review

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): One year on from the publication of the Deepcut Review I am reporting on the progress that has been made in the provision of care for our young recruits and trainees.

We remain indebted to the work undertaken by Nicholas Blake QC for his independent, objective and comprehensive analysis of all relevant matters bearing on the four deaths at Deepcut. This added impetus to the extensive programme of work that was already under way to deliver improvements in the provision of care of our young recruits and trainees. Many of the actions arising from the Review are either complete or near completion and we have made significant progress. In their "Better Training" report, published on 6 March and which I welcomed in my written statement on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 123-124WS, the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) comments on the changes we have made to improve the training environment and our progress in detail.

The Deepcut Review made specific recommendations with regards to our care of recruits and trainees under 18 years of age and the environment in which they are trained. We have implemented the Supervisory Care Directive across the training organisations to reduce the risks to trainees. Our policy regarding the management, care and welfare of Service personnel under the age of 18 has been revised and reissued. Arrangements are in place to ensure that our under-18s are properly identified, monitored and supported throughout their training, and when necessary during their free time too. We have also improved our procedures to prevent under-18s from inadvertently deploying to hostile theatres of operations.

The Deepcut Review required us to look at ways to reduce the numbers of soldiers joining their units while under the age of 18. From September 2008, all the Army's Junior Entry Phase 1 training will be conducted at either the Army Foundation College Harrogate over 42 weeks, or over a period of 20 weeks at the Army Training Regiment Winchester, from where trainees go on to complete longer Phase 2 training courses.

We continue to look at ways of ensuring the physical and mental suitability of recruits to the Armed Forces and all three Services now have pre-joining fitness tests that must be passed before entry. The Army obtains medical information from GPs to corroborate a candidate's response in the British Army Health Questionnaire and to answer further questions, thus reducing reliance on self-declaration. A copy of the trainee's NHS records is also obtained at the start of Phase 1 training to improve primary health care, and, if necessary, to substantiate the previous information on physical or psychological vulnerabilities. This practice is to be evaluated later in the year with a view to application across the three Services.

The Deepcut Review recommended that the Army should encourage maximum involvement in the selection process by the parent, or other responsible adult, of the applicant under 18. We have made great efforts to keep families and partners informed as recruits pass through training. We engage with families if a young recruit has a problem but in general our contact with families goes far beyond keeping them informed of problems, as they receive letters and phone calls about progress and information about forthcoming events. The ALI has acknowledged that our approach to recruits' families has improved significantly (Better Training Report, page 17).

The Deepcut Review recommended that recruits who joined the Army as minors and who have reached a settled decision that they are unhappy with pursuing a military career before they reach the end of their Phase 2 training, but after their 18th birthday, should be able to discharge as of right. We have no plans to change our policy that allows all new recruits who have completed 28 days service, regardless of their age, to Discharge as of Right (DAOR) within the first six months of service. However, those under the age of 18 years three months who have passed their statutory period for DAOR and who are clearly unhappy in their service may be considered for discharge from the Armed Forces providing their unhappiness has been registered with their Commanding Officer before reaching the age of 18.

To address recommendations made on the training and selection of instructors, we have introduced the Defence Train the Trainer course, which was mandated for all new instructors from April 2006. On 2 April 2007 a purpose built Army Recruiting and Training Division Staff Leadership School will open at Pirbright. The Armed Forces have tightened up their procedures for checking the personal records of Service personnel before employing them as instructors, to ensure that only suitable personnel of the right quality are posted to training establishments. While current legislation does not allow for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks to be carried out on personnel working with recruits and trainees under the age of 18 because they are in full time employment, we are working as a matter of urgency with the DfES and Home Office on changes to legislation that will allow greater flexibility in carrying out CRB checks on employees in the future. These changes are likely to come into effect this summer.

We have introduced a new policy on Remedial Training to address the recommendations in the Deepcut Review on the use of informal punishments. The new policy defines what is legitimate in order to assist trainees to achieve required standards and to ensure that both instructors and trainees distinguish this from bullying or harassment, which is always unacceptable. It also reinforces the difference between training and punishment. Punishment may only be awarded as a result of a formal disciplinary process. Unofficial punishments are always unacceptable. The Defence Instructor Handbook includes the behavioural standard expected of an instructor and it makes it clear that any unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated. Any allegations of wrong-doing are thoroughly investigated and where proven, appropriate action is taken against the perpetrators that may, ultimately, result in dismissal from the Service.

We have made real progress in managing the risk of self-harm and suicide. Training is being implemented, at all levels, on the identification and management of both operational and workplace stress. The Supervisory Care Directive issued in March 2006 sets out the responsibilities of Commanding Officers in respect of managing risks to recruits, including the maintenance of an at risk register. The term at risk is interpreted widely and intelligently to include any recruits experiencing problems that affect their performance during training and which may put them at risk of failing their course. This approach has transformed the way in which support is targeted and the ALI cited this as our single most important development (Better Training Report, page 17).

We said in our response to the Deepcut Review that we intended to extend and deepen inspection arrangements across the military justice system using the opportunity afforded by the creation of a combined inspectorate for the criminal justice system. Although a combined inspectorate will now not be created under the Police and Justice Act, we intend to continue to progress our plans with the five separate justice inspectorates, and are working closely with other Government Departments to achieve this.

As a result of the Deepcut Review we have produced a simple leaflet on what to do on encountering any form of bullying, who to turn to for help, sources of advice, definitions of the terms bullying and harassment and an overview of how complaints are made, responded to, investigated and dealt with. The Army has completed their trial of a system called Bullytext where trainees who may not wish to report incidents to the chain of command can text messages to an Authorised Officer. The trial was undertaken in three large training establishments but received limited use by trainees so it was not possible to undertake a detailed assessment of its merit. However, feedback from trainees has indicated that the existence of such a scheme acts as a reassurance mechanism that is considered beneficial to them. Other more localised schemes using a text messaging service are therefore now being explored to complement the well-used Confidential Support Line.

We have revised and reissued our procedures for making and dealing with complaints of bullying and harassment. The revised procedures apply to both Service and civilian personnel and set out how to make a complaint, how to respond if the subject of a complaint, and how complaints are investigated and decided upon. We have provided clearer guidance on how the complaints procedures work, with more information on how to get help and advice, and on how complaints are logged and recorded. Further improvements will be made to the complaints process under the Armed Forces Act 2006, including the introduction of Service Complaint Panels, which include an external, independent member for the consideration of complaints which make allegations of harassment and bullying. We will appoint a Service Complaints Commissioner who will be able to receive complaints directly from Service personnel, or from a third party, and refer them to the chain of command for action. Whilst many complaints can be resolved satisfactorily by the chain of command at the lowest possible level, the Service Complaints Commissioner will offer Service personnel and others an alternative means of raising a grievance if they do not feel comfortable, for whatever reason, in reporting it to the relevant commanding officer. These changes are planned to come into effect in 2008, ahead of full implementation of Armed Forces Act 2006. The recruitment process for the position of Service Complaints Commissioner will begin shortly.

The Deepcut Review made recommendations about armed guarding and unsupervised access to weapons. The policy for routine armed guarding at training establishments has been updated and we are well into a programme of transferring routine armed guarding at all Phase 2 establishments to the Military Provost Guard Service rather than trainees. Phase 2 trainees may be tasked to carry out armed guarding but only under strict guidelines which ensure that they are appropriately qualified, supervised and receive proper rest periods following their armed guarding

duties. No trainee awaiting discharge from the Services is used and no Phase 1 trainees carry out armed guarding duties in any establishment.

There are tighter and better enforced controls over access to firearms, and the risks associated with the use of firearms in our training establishments are managed more carefully. While Phase 1 trainees are no longer required to carry out armed guarding duties, we continue to prepare them adequately for the duties that will be expected of them once they join their units.

The Deepcut Review made recommendations regarding our support to bereaved families. We recognise the families' needs and we offer them considerable support. But each family's needs are different and we acknowledge that we do not always meet their expectations. We go to great lengths to pass all relevant information to the families; this includes redacted copies of the Board of Inquiry. Families are routinely offered briefings on the Board of Inquiry to help them understand its content and conclusions. Equally our support through the services of a Visiting Officer remains available for as long as the family needs it. We continue working with the Department for Constitutional Affairs to improve support to families based on their experience of the inquest system. Arrangements are in place to ensure that inquests are held as quickly as possible; and bodies which are repatriated to the UK may now be transferred to the Coroner's district of the final resting place to alleviate family members from having to travel long distances to the inquest.

The Government Response to the Deepcut Review accepted that there may be circumstances in which family attendance at a particular Board of Inquiry would be acceptable where it would not impede the proceedings of the Board. We are developing a more open and inclusive approach to the family in relation to the conduct of the Inquiry and there is now discretion for Presidents to allow family attendance at Boards of Inquiry.

Achieving real and lasting change in the Armed Forces will require sustained effort. We have introduced a successful programme of internal review and evaluation that is conducted by the Directorate of Individual Training Capability, whose role is to evaluate the implementation of policies relating to the Individual Training environment, enabling the identification of issues and for the sharing of good practice. In addition, our training organisations will remain open to external scrutiny through the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skill organisation in April 2007. I would like to pay tribute to all those who have worked so hard across the Services to bring about the necessary changes to improve the way in which we look after and train our young men and women.

We will not forget the four young soldiers—Sean Benton, Cheryl James, Geoff Gray and James Collinson—who died at Deepcut but we are confident that we have done and continue to do all that we can to prevent such tragedies from happening again.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

14-19 Education and Skills (Diploma Gateway Process)

The Minister for Schools (Jim Knight): I have today announced the outcome of the diploma gateway process to approve consortia to offer the first new diplomas to young people in selected areas of the country in September 2008. A list of the consortiums and their approval status has been placed in the Library.

The diplomas will broaden the options available to young people, encouraging more to continue learning for longer and gain the qualifications they need to progress into further and higher education, and employment. They are fundamental to our proposals on raising the participation age, as set out in last week's Green Paper "Raising Expectations: Staying in Education and Training Post 16".

The availability of the first 5 diploma lines from 2008 shows that we are on track with our priorities set out in our "14-19 Education and Skills Implementation Plan" (2005).

HEALTH

NHS Resource Accounting and Budgeting Regime

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): I am pleased to announce changes to the resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) regime for National Health Service trusts and the impact this will have on the financial position of affected NHS trusts in 2006-07. I am also announcing the allocation of the £450 million reserve to the NHS.

The NHS financial position has shown a massive improvement since last year. A deficit of £547 million has been transformed into a small surplus as reported on 20 February 2007 by the Department in the report "NHS Financial Performance Quarter Three 2006-07", which is available in the Library.

This improved performance of the NHS overall means that we are now confident that we can move NHS trusts out of the RAB regime. This means that NHS trusts will no longer have their income reduced for overspends in the previous year.

This does not mean we are writing off the deficits of overspending NHS trusts, which will still need to generate surpluses to meet their statutory duty. What has been eliminated is the double effect of having both an income reduction and then having to generate a surplus.

This is in line with recommendations set out by the Audit Commission in their "Review of the NHS Financial Management and Accounting Regime" published in July 2006.

In line with these changes we are reversing income deductions imposed on NHS trusts in 2006-07 under the old RAB regime as a consequence of overspends in 2005-06. This totals £178 million and benefits 28 NHS trusts, as set out in table 1 below.

In support of this change, I am also pleased to announce that we can now allocate the £450 million contingency to the NHS. This is being allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) on a fair shares basis meaning that the most needy areas of the country will receive a larger share of the funding in line with our needs based resource allocation formula. Details of the allocation by SHA and the effect this has on the financial position of each SHA economy, as reported at quarter 3, is given in table 2 below.

The first call on this funding is to reverse the £178 million RAB deductions made to NHS trusts in 2006-07. The balance is available to begin to reverse the

funding top sliced from primary care trusts PCT allocations to create SHA level reserves.

As a result of these and earlier reforms, the NHS now has a financial system that ensures fairness, transparency and responsibility. Organisations can now understand clearly their financial performance and the consequences and benefits of the management decisions they make. This gives us the firm basis to go forward and continue transforming the services we provide for patients by implementing policies such as 18 weeks.

Table 1: Impact on 2006/07 forecast outturn at NHS trust Level of the reversal of 2006/07 RAB income deductions applied to NHS trusts in respect of 2005/06 deficits

£000

NHS trust name	Forecast outturn surplus (deficit) as reported at quarter three	Net RAB deductions applied to NHS trusts in 2006/07	Forecast Outturn surplus (deficit) reported at quarter three after the reversal of RAB reduction
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	-6,357	-6,357	0
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	-13,000	-12,304	-696
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	-13,500	-1,500	-12,000
Worcestershire MH Partnership NHS Trust	-3,084	-1,592	-1,492
Cambs & Peterborough MH Partnership NHS Trust	500	-325	825
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	-29,902	-8,101	-21,801
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	-15,800	-14,020	-1,780
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	3,150	-876	4,026
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	-1,500	-5,857	4,357
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	-10,986	-11,010	24
Suffolk MH Partnership NHS Trust	1,200	-797	1,997
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	-11,100	-12,027	927
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	-12,894	-14,123	1,229
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	-25,619	-24,064	-1,555
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	-36,079	-23,420	-12,659
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	-11,956	-8,758	-3,198
Whipps Cross University Hosp NHS Trust	-30,405	-15,606	-14,799
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	0	-2,560	2,560
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	-12,500	-2,606	-9,894
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	-3,400	-4,864	1,464
Medway NHS Trust	69	-69	138
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	-700	-1,293	593
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	0	-305	305
Avon and Wiltshire MHP NHS Trust	0	-2,789	2,789
Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust	-1,395	-1,319	-76
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	-7,500	-362	-7,138
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	0	-138	138
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	0	-835	835

Table 2: Impact on 2006/07 forecast outturn at Strategic Health Authority level of the allocation of the £450 million reserve

£000

Strategic health authority	SHA economy surplus (deficit) at quarter 3	Shares of £450m pro rata to 2006/07 closing target	SHA economy surplus (deficit) including fair share of £450m
North East	24,090	25,260	49,350
North West	3,384	66,887	70,270
Yorkshire and the Humber	406	45,600	46,006
East Midlands	-16,699	36,489	19,790
West Midlands	0	48,433	48,433
East of England	-174,563	46,022	-128,541
London	-125,332	71,434	-53,898
South East Coast	-103,432	35,533	-67,899
South Central	-14,974	31,272	16,297
South West	-29,600	43,071	13,471
England	-436,720	450,000	13,280

HOME DEPARTMENT

Securing the UK Border

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Liam Byrne): I am today publishing a new strategy entitled "Securing the UK Border", the terms of reference for the new Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), a summary of the responses received to our recent consultation on establishing a Migration Advisory Committee, and terms of reference for a new Migration Impacts Forum. Copies of all documents have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Effective immigration systems require effective controls. The "Securing the UK Border" strategy is the third in the series of papers setting out how we will henceforth create a new offshore border control system, and strengthen UK border security here at home. It sets out how we intend to strengthen our borders against those who seek to abuse our laws and present a threat to our security while at the same time making the system simpler and faster for legitimate, low risk travellers. The main proposals include:

Visa Waiver Test: we will henceforth assume that all non-EEA countries will face a visa regime unless they meet a sufficient benchmark against a basket of immigration, crime, security and economic criteria. A test will be conducted over 2007 with regimes maintained, lifted or imposed during 2008-09. In tandem we will be reviewing the transit without visa concession and the direct airside transit visa regime.

Biometric capture: underpinning our proposals is the need to establish the identity of those seeking to travel to the UK. We will therefore capture the biometrics of all non-EEA passengers before travel to the UK or on arrival.

Visitors: we want to make the rights and obligations of those visiting the UK clearer and more transparent. During 2007 we will consult on the creation of distinct and separate routes for those coming for six months or less as tourists, business visitors and sponsored family visitors.

Forced Marriage: we will also consult on the introduction of measures to address the problem of forced marriage, including raising the minimum age for spouse and sponsor and examining the case for introducing some form of English language test prior to entry for those spouses intending to settle.

We are committed to attracting people with the skills Britain needs from around the world. With our policy set, a points based system will, starting from next year, ensure that we only admit to work and study those migrants with a contribution to make to Britain.

We believe that the UK would benefit greatly from advice from a new Committee of independent experts about where migration is of benefit to Britain and where it is not. There has been a full consultation on our proposals and the response I am publishing today shows strong support from the public.

The Migration Advisory Committee will be a non-statutory advisory non-departmental public body established from April 2007. It will provide independent and evidence-based advice to Government on specific sectors and occupations in the labour market where shortages exist which can sensibly be filled by migration. In addition the Government may, from time to time, ask the MAC to advise on other matters relating to migration.

Alongside the MAC we are also establishing a new Migration Impacts Forum (MIF) which will provide us with information and input from interested parties on the wider impacts of migration. I will co-chair this body with my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government and will invite membership from among those with a direct interest in issues associated with the wider impacts of migration from across the UK.

I am also announcing today a number of changes to the immigration rules relating to ministers of religion and international students, including an extension of the science and engineering graduates scheme and the fresh talent: working in Scotland scheme.

CABINET OFFICE

MP's and Peers' Correspondence

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): I am today publishing a report on Departments' and agencies' performance on handling Members' and Peers' correspondence during 2006. Details are set out in the attached table. Figures for 2005 were published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 75WS. Departmental figures are based on substantive replies unless otherwise indicated.

The footnotes to the table provide general background information on how the figures have been compiled.

Correspondence from MPs and Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[1]

		2006	
Department or Agency	*Target set for reply (working days)*	*Number of letters received*	*Percentage of replies within target*
Cabinet Office	15	[2]962	83
Department for Communities and Local Government[3]	15	11,168	[4]42
Planning Inspectorate	10	228	77
Ordnance Survey	15	66	100
Department for Constitutional Affairs	20	3,524	84
HM Courts Service	15	54	96
Tribunals Service[5]	10	1,969	92
Land Registry	20	59	95
Public Guardianship Office	15	53	96
Crown Prosecution Service	15	569	97
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	20	4,199	76
Ministry of Defence	15	[6]7,001	[7]62
Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency	15	153	97
Defence Vetting Agency	7	24	100
Veterans Agency	15	881	99

Correspondence from MPs and Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives[1]

Department or Agency	*Target set for reply (working days)*	*2006 Number of letters received*	*Percentage of replies within target*
Department for Education and Skills	15	17,240	*73
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	15	12,475	*53
Rural Development Service[10]	15	68	31
Rural Payments Agency	15	1,536	**22
Pesticide Safety Directorate	15	51	*47
State Veterinary Service	15	19	*26
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	20	26	*65
Food Standards Agency			
* Letters where Health Ministers have replied.	20	*410	**62
** Letters where Chief Executive/Chairman has replied.	10	**51	92
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	20	11,970	89
UK Visas			
* Letters where UK Visa officials have replied.	15	*7,711	78
** Letters where FCO Ministers have replied.	20	**953	80
Department of Health	20	23,053	89
* Letters received by the Chief Medical Officer and responded directly to MPs.	20	28	*75
** Letters received by the NHS Chief Executive and responded directly to MPs.	20	44	**189
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	20	212	84
*** Letters received by Agency Chief Executive and responded on behalf of DH Ministers.	20	30	***87
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency	20	15	80
Home Office (non IND correspondence)[15]	15	9,583	93
Criminal Records Bureau	10	**378	93
Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND)	20	41,534	78
HM Prison Service	20	1,004	97
Identity and Passport Service[13]	10	679	68
Department for International Development	15	5,094	76
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lord's Office	15	110	90
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	20	375	71
Northern Ireland Office	10	506	67
Compensation Agency	7	39	**85
Northern Ireland Prison Service	10	34	85
Office of the Leader of the House of Commons	15	418	96
HM Revenue and Customs	18	5,327	60
* Local Office and "delegated" figures (where local tax offices have replied directly to MPs)	18	*1,956	54
Scotland Office	15	39	77
Department of Trade and Industry	15	12,780	71
Companies House	10	54	100
Employment Tribunals Service[17]	12	12	100
Insolvency Service	10	559	98
Department for Transport	15	9,944	76
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	7	1,274	79
Driving Standards Agency	15	71	83

Correspondence from MPs and Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives

Department or Agency	*Target set for reply (working days)*	2006 *Number of letters received*	*Percentage of replies within target*
Highways Agency	15	347	96
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	10	12	83
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	15	25	100
HM Treasury	15	4,281	[19] 93
National Savings and Investments	15	43	93
Office for National Statistics	15	105	85
Valuation Office	10	[20] 108	71
Treasury Solicitor's Department	18	13	84
Wales Office	10	26	100
Department for Work and Pensions	15	148	86
Appeals Service[20]	20	13,140	90
Child Support Agency	15	20	90
Debt Management	15	5,233	94
Disability and Carers Service	15	11	100
Health and Safety Executive	15	467	100
Jobcentre Plus	15	145	90
The Pension Service	15	1,445	92
	15	787	96

[1] Departments and Agencies which received 10 MPs/Peers letters or fewer are not shown in this table. Holding or interim replies are not included unless otherwise indicated. The report does not include correspondence considered as Freedom of Information requests.
[2] Office of the Third Sector and the Social Exclusion Unit are included from May 2006.
[3] DCLG was established in May 2006.
[4] Drop in performance caused by several planning campaigns and a higher volume of correspondence. New arrangements have been introduced to improve performance.
[5] The Tribunals Service was formed in April 2006 and incorporates the former Employment Tribunal Service.
[6] Database is unable to differentiate between letters from MPs/Peers and other correspondence, including FOI requests. Figures are therefore for all letters which received a ministerial reply. The AFPAA and DVA do not include FOI requests.
[7] Drop in performance caused by an increased volume of correspondence and the introduction of a new database in September 2006 to record and track correspondence.
[8] Drop in performance caused by technical difficulties following the implementation of a new handling system. Since August 2006, performance has increased to 93 per cent.
[9] There was a marked increase in correspondence in the first half of the year. In April 2006 a fully centralised system and changes in the correspondence handling system were introduced.
[10] Only includes figures from January to October when the Rural Development Service merged with English Nature and the Countryside Agency to form Natural England. Natural England is an NDPB so will not be included in future lists.
[11] New procedures have been implemented to tackle and improve performance from 2007.
[12] From 1 February 2007 FSA correspondence has been processed though the DH Customer Service Centre, which it is hoped will lead to improved performance.
[13] Active Communities Directorate included until May 2006, when it transferred to the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.
[14] These figures are from February 2006 when a new correspondence team was established.
[15] The UK Passport Service became the Identity and Passport Service in April 2006.
[16] Drop in performance caused by complex correspondence.
[17] Figures are from 1 January to 2 April 2006, when the Employment Tribunals Service became part of the Tribunals Service.
[18] Database can not differentiate between correspondence received from MP/Peers and others so figure includes all letters receiving a ministerial reply.
[19] Figures are where the National Statistician replied on the Ministers' behalf. Figures are for all correspondence not just that received from MPs and Peers.
[20] Figures are from January to 2 April 2006, when the Appeals Service became part of The Tribunals Service.

NORTHERN IRELAND

St. Andrews Summit

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): The British and Irish Governments held multi-party talks, with the Northern Ireland political parties, at St. Andrews on 10-13 October 2006. The aim of the St. Andrews summit was to focus discussion on achieving the restoration of the political institutions in Northern Ireland.

The outcome of the summit culminated in the St. Andrews agreement between the British and Irish Governments. The progress made at St. Andrews was significant and has subsequently brought us, with this week's historic statement by the leaders of the DUP and Sinn Fein, to the brink of a stable future for the government of Northern Ireland. The Government will continue to do everything it can to support the political parties in Northern Ireland in taking the final step towards restoration.

A total breakdown of the costs for the talks held at the St. Andrews summit, which were shared by the British and Irish Governments, has been published on the Northern Ireland Office website today. I have attached a copy of the costs to this statement and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Cost Breakdown for the St. Andrews Summit 11-13 October 2006

Accommodation/Room Hire	*£121,834.50*
The Fairmont St. Andrews Hotel (including office for the delegates and accommodation for the Government delegations)	£97,614.40

Cost Breakdown for the St. Andrews Summit 11-13 October 2006

Other St. Andrews hotels (delegates' accommodation)	£24,220.01
Conference Facilities and Catering	*£100,194.57*
Hire of conference facilities, catering for officials and delegates	£64,722.41
Catering for Police	£27,966.03
Catering for Media	£7,506.13
Transport	*£85,775.86*
Charter flights	£53,500.24
Scheduled flights	£20,101.68
Other Transport	£4,501.98
Official Cars	£7,671.96
Technical and Communications	*£55,630.94*
Equipment hire, staging, SAA logo board	
Work Charges	*£28,347.79*
Press facilities, plumbing, generators and marquee hire	
Total	*£191,783.66*

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (Statutory Charging)

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I am today announcing that with effect from 3 April the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) will make charging decisions in all indictable only, either way or summary offences investigated by HM Revenue and Customs.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office was established in April 2005. Under section 37(A)(1)(a) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, as inserted by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and as amended by the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 the Director of Revenue and Customs Office is empowered to issue guidance on charging. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I welcome this development which recognises the enormous progress made since the independent Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office was established. This move has also been welcomed by HM Revenue and Customs investigators, who have worked closely with RCPO in identifying issues to be covered in the guidance."

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Christmas Hamper Savings Schemes

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): I promised to keep this House informed of the Government's progress to put in place measures to avoid a repetition of the devastating impact on Farepak customers caused by the demise of the company last autumn.

Upon the collapse of Farepak, the Government acted quickly to set up the Farepak Response Fund, which secured £8 million. Thereafter, the Government have sought to work with the industry in order to provide enhanced protection for consumers. While the urgency of the situation which existed ahead of Christmas may have passed, I have remained as committed to this issue as I was when it first arose. Today, I am pleased to announce that discussions with the industry have led to an agreement between industry and Government which I am confident will lead to far greater consumer protection in the future.

Since the collapse of Farepak, the remaining hamper companies have been taking payments towards Christmas 2007. My immediate priority therefore has been to concentrate on securing early action to ensure that these payments are protected as far as possible to avoid a repetition of the situation where some of the poorest families in Britain, who had budgeted for Christmas, paid the price for the collapse of Farepak.

Since last autumn, the Government have been in discussions with the existing companies in this sector to develop an industry-led scheme to provide better safeguards for pre-payments through independently controlled, ring-fenced accounts, similar to the scheme that protects National Lottery prize money in the event of Camelot becoming insolvent. The purpose of these ring-fencing arrangements is to ensure customers' money could only be credited to the customers and agents should the company go bust, thereby avoiding another situation like Farepak. The key points of the proposal are:

The customers' money would be placed in a separate account and held on behalf of the customers.

Control of this account would rest with independent trustees and not with the company.

The money would be released to the company by the trustees only to satisfy the customers' orders, and not for other business activities or expenses of the business.

The arrangements would be formally defined as a trust deed and would be subject to trust law.

I am pleased to report that the industry have agreed to safeguard pre-payments through trust arrangements on these lines, thereby protecting the interests of consumers within the Hamper industry. The companies are now working to introduce these accounts over the coming weeks. We think that effective safeguards of this type will provide the reassurance consumers are looking for in this industry. We therefore strongly welcome this move.

To increase consumer confidence further, we are also working with the industry to ensure these arrangements are monitored by a new, strengthened trade association. We will be looking for the trade association to put in place effective procedures through a reinforced code of practice to monitor the companies and ensure these accounts are established and operated correctly.

The trade association will have a strong independent element—independent directors will have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the code of practice. In particular, the code will be monitored by an independent Director of Compliance, free from association with any hamper company. Consumer concerns and consumer rights will be monitored by an independent Director of Consumer Affairs. We expect the companies to make the appointments in the next few weeks.

We will continue to work with the industry to ensure these measures are put in place as quickly as possible.

I believe this move is an important step and welcome the commitment of the industry to seek to protect their customers.

In the longer term, the advice received from the Office of Fair Trading and the Financial Services Authority on a range of options to protect consumer interests in this industry will be considered alongside the findings of the two investigations into Farepak by the Administrators and DTI's Companies Investigation Branch. I hope to come back to the House once we have had a chance to consider all these issues.

With respect to the ongoing investigation into the administration of Farepak, the Administrators have a statutory requirement to report to the Secretary of State within six months of their appointment. Their report is expected no later than 13 April 2007. The Insolvency Service will then consider the Administrators' report and consider whether there are grounds for requiring further investigation - for example, with a view to bringing proceedings to disqualify the directors of Farepak Foods & Gifts Ltd. from acting as directors to any other company.

DTI's Companies Investigation Branch is continuing its wider confidential investigation into the circumstances surrounding the failure of Farepak. I do, of course, recognise the understandable desire for a speedy enquiry, but the investigation needs to be both thorough and fair, and it would not be appropriate to give an estimate for its conclusion. The victims of the collapse of Farepak have the right to expect that a comprehensive investigation has taken place.

I will provide further details to hon. Members in due course.

TRANSPORT

European Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I attended the transport session of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, held in Brussels on 22 March. The German Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Mr Wolfgang Tiefensee, was in the chair.

Two aspects of the Galileo satellite navigation programme were on the agenda.

The Presidency and Commission reported to the Council on the current difficulties with the concession contract negotiations for the PPP and the impact on the overall development of the project. There has not been any recent progress on the negotiations because of internal problems amongst the partners in the consortium bidding to run the Galileo PPP. In light of the delays, the Presidency recently convened a meeting with the consortium but no satisfactory solution had been found to the current deadlock. At Council it was therefore necessary to consider what action could be taken to get the process back on track. The bidding consortium has now been given a deadline of 10 May 2007 to take the necessary measures to allow negotiations to move forwards effectively. If the deadline is not met then, the Commission will begin to develop alternative options for taking forward the Galileo project. A more detailed discussion on these issues would then follow at the June Transport Council. Council Conclusions, acceptable to the UK, were agreed to this end.

The Council adopted a Decision setting out the framework for third country participation, as Associated Members, in the Galileo Supervisory Authority. The Decision, with which the UK is content, authorises the Commission to open negotiations with non-EU countries that apply, with final approval resting with the Council.

There was unanimous support for an EU-US Air Services Agreement. The Presidency reported that, following the most recent negotiations with the US, the proposed text for a first stage agreement had been considerably improved and was a good starting point for reaching a full Open Aviation Area. However, negotiations should resume quickly making further progress on a second stage. A number of Ministers spoke to welcome the Agreement. I pointed out that the UK accounts for a 40 per cent. share of the EU-US market. The deal on the table did not go the full way to achieving a fully liberalised Open Aviation Area, so it was essential to have a clear timetable for delivering stage 2 agreements and have real leverage if the negotiations did not proceed as we wished. I proposed a mechanism be established for the automatic withdrawal of rights by the EU if an agreement had not been reached within the timetable set down in the draft agreement. Each Member State would decide which rights it would wish to withdraw. This suspension would apply unless the Council agreed unanimously otherwise. In addition, it was proposed that the start of the agreement be delayed until 30 March 2008 to give airports and airlines more time to prepare. These points were agreed and are reflected in the Council Conclusions, which were adopted unanimously.

The Council adopted a Decision on the signature and provisional application of the agreement reached with Russia on Siberian overflights, including the establishment of a cost equalisation mechanism during the transitional period. We strongly welcome this agreement and support the Decision.

There was a debate on the contribution of the transport sector to the Lisbon strategy. The Presidency put questions to Member States for this debate, focusing on how to stimulate consumer demand for cleaner vehicles and how to ensure that rail, shipping and inland waterways play their part. Most Member States focused on the proven or potential benefits of: taxation measures for vehicles or fuels; alternative fuels (particularly biofuels); eco-driving; eco-labelling; information campaigns to buyers and drivers; and new technologies. The UK was among those which expressed support for the Commission's proposal for mandatory CO_2 limits for cars and light vans, while pointing to the need to work towards even lower limits by 2020. The Commission summarised its plans for sustainable transport, including car CO_2 reduction; an action plan for logistics and a green paper on urban transport; and binding biofuels targets.

Under AOB, the Commission presented two recent Communications: one on extension of trans-European transport axes to neighbouring countries, including those in Asia and Africa; and the other on the implementation of the SESAR programme for the modernisation of the European air traffic management system. The Presidency is aiming for a decision at the Transport Council in June on the establishment of the SESAR joint undertaking.

Among items adopted without debate was an amending Regulation on the accelerated phasing-in of double-hull or equivalent design oil tankers.

Highway Code

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): I have today laid before both Houses of Parliament a draft revised edition of the highway code containing alterations proposed to be made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State pursuant to section 38.of the Road Traffic Act 1988. In accordance with section 38 of the 1988 Act the proposed revision will not be made until after the end of a period of 40 days beginning with the day on which the alterations were laid.

The draft revised edition of the highway code takes account of responses to the public consultation held between February and May 2006.

I have also today published the response to consultation reporting on the results of the consultation on the proposed revision of the highway code.

The most significant issues raised during consultation were:

a variety of cycling-related issues

stopping distances

road users' attitudes and greater consideration for vulnerable road users.

Copies of the response to consultation have been placed in the Library of each House of Parliament.

The response to consultation is also available from the DSA website at: www.dsa.gov.uk: or by telephone on: 01234 744054.

The revised highway code is planned for publication in summer 2007.

Highways Agency - Parliamentary Questions (Corrections)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman):): My answer to parliamentary questions UIN 126098, 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, cols 2262-2264W, regarding traffic volumes for each concrete section of the national trunk road network and UIN 126096, 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, Col 20-22W, regarding the proportion of the concreted trunk road network which has had quieter surfacing installed since July 2005, contained several inaccuracies.

Copies of the amended tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund Allocations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): I am pleased to announce that the gross discretionary Social Fund budget for 2007-08 will be £752 million.

This includes a £50 million injection of net funding, being the second of three which in total comprise a substantial £210 million boost to support changes to the loans scheme.

With the net funding available, I have been able to allocate a gross national loans budget of £610 million and a national community care grants budget of £141 million from 1st April 2007; £1 million will be retained centrally as a contingency reserve. For example it is available to provide additional help to Jobcentre Plus budgets facing unexpected and unplanned expenditure.

Details of individual budget allocations will be placed in the Library.

The discretionary social fund budget is cash limited. Budgets are allocated to districts on 1 April each year. The gross discretionary social fund budget allocated for 2007-08 is £752 million made up of:

New money (net AME) £228.2million

Forecast loan recovery £523.8million

This was allocated as follows:

Loans £610 million

Grants £141 million

Contingency reserve £1 million

Agency Targets and Business Plans

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I am today able to announce the annual performance targets in 2007-08 for four of the executive agencies of the Department for Work and Pensions. The targets I have agreed are set out below.

Further information on the plans of Jobcentre Plus, the Child Support Agency, Disability and Carers Service and The Rent Service in 2007-08 is contained in their individual business plans which have been published today. Copies have been placed in the Library and the Vote Office. The Pension Service targets and business plan will be published in due course.

Jobcentre Plus

2007-08
*Job Outcome Target (JOT)**
To achieve a total points score of 11,200,000 based on the job outcomes Jobcentre Plus achieves
*The JOT target this year is not directly comparable with that set for 2006/07 due to technical and definitional adjustments. The 2006/07 target was based on limited baseline information and was set too high.

*Interventions Delivery Target**	
To make sure that specified key Jobcentre Plus labour market interventions take place within set timescales in 85% of cases checked.	
* New Target not comparable to former Business Delivery Target.	
Component	*Planning Assumption*
Labour Market interventions	90%
Lone Parent Review/ Trigger Work Focused Interviews	85%
Jobseeker's Allowance interventions (JSA 13- and 26-week interventions)	85%
Incapacity Benefit (IB) interventions (initial IB Work Focused Interviews)	80%

Average Actual Clearance Times

To process claims within specified Average Actual Clearance Times (AACTs) for Incapacity Benefit (IB), Income Support (IS) and Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) – 18 days, 11 days and 12 days respectively.

Monetary Value of Fraud & Error Target

By March 2008, to continue to ensure that losses from fraud and error in working-age Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance amount to less than current levels of loss as expressed in the new 2005-6 baseline.

Customer Service Target

To achieve an 84% customer service level in the delivery of the standards set out in the Customers and Employers Charters.

Employer Outcome Target

At least 84% of employers placing their vacancies with Jobcentre Plus will have a positive outcome.

Child Support Agency

The Secretary of State's targets have been designed to ensure that the Agency is firmly on track to achieve its Operational Improvement Plan commitments in this crucial second year of the Programme. They are:

Number of children	Maintenance will be collected or have been arranged by the agency on behalf of 720,000 children, as measured by the monthly average over the quarter ending March 2008.
Total Maintenance Collection (Arrears)	Collect or have arranged £970 million in child maintenance between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008; of which at least £120 million will be arrears.
Maintenance Outcomes	By 31 March 2008, in 66% of cases across both the new and old schemes in which a liability to pay maintenance exists, the non-resident parent has either made a payment via the collection service or a Maintenance Direct arrangement is in place.
Uncleared applications to the New Scheme	By 31 March 2008, the volume of uncleared new scheme applications will be no more than 140,000.

Disability and Carers Service

Performance Standards for 2007-08

Ensure that at least 92 per cent of calls to the DLA/AA Helpline, our national telephone service, are answered first time.

Ensure that less than one per cent of all calls attempted to the DLA/AA Helpline receive an engaged tone.

Increase the percentage of customers satisfied with the service provided by DCS to 86 per cent.

Performance Standards for 2007-08

Clear new claims for DLA within an average of 38 or less working days; new claims for AA within an average of 18 days and CA within an average of 13.5 days.

Achieve an accuracy rate of 90.5 per cent on decisions on claims for DLA.

Achieve an accuracy rate of 92 per cent on decisions on claims for AA.

Achieve a financial accuracy rate of 98 per cent on CA.

Reduce sick absence to eight average working days lost.

Meet the efficiency challenge by delivering a staffing level of 5,603.

Reduce the cost of processing benefits to: DLA/AA claim £154.98* DLA/AA load £7.80* CA claim £80.72* CA load £11.05* * figures to be confirmed.

Number of DLA/AA cases referred to the Tribunal Service to be no more than 4.5 per cent of all cases.

Of the referred cases heard by the Tribunal Service no more than 45 per cent. to be overturned.

The Rent Service

Service Delivery

Customer Satisfaction

Local Authority Housing Benefit Department Customers

Ensure that at least 95% of our local authority customers rate our service as satisfactory or better during the year.

Fair Rent Customers & Housing Benefit Inspections

Ensure that at least 95% of our fair rent customers, and those housing benefit claimants whose properties we inspect, rate our service as satisfactory or better during the year.

Quality

95% of all Housing Benefit determinations that are checked as part of our quality assurance processes are verified as being accurate.

95% of all Fair Rent valuations that are checked as part of our quality assurance processes are verified as being accurate.

Speed of Processing

Type of Determination	*Timescale for the Year*	*2007-08 Target Outturn*
Housing Benefit:		
With an inspection	within 15 working days	94%
Without an inspection	within 3 working days	94%
Pre-Tenancy	within 4 working days	94%
Redetermination	within 15 working days	94%
Fair Rents	within 40 working days	94%

Value for Money

Productivity

To increase productivity by 5% by the end of the year.

Cost per case

To reduce cost per case by 1.5% in real terms by the end of the year.

Sickness Absence

To reduce average sick absence to no more than 8 working days per employee per year.

Occupational Pensions

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): The Chancellor in his Budget statement on 21 March announced our decision to significantly extend the help provided by the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS).

This announcement was the result of my reflection on the implications of the High Court ruling in the judicial review of the Government's decision to reject the Parliamentary Ombudsman's findings of maladministration by the DWP

My reflections have also been informed by the judgment of the ECJ in the Robins case. In that judgment, given on 25 January, the European Court indicated that the level of protection provided to some members of the ASW pension scheme fell short of the level required by article 8 of the Insolvency Directive. But the ECJ also said the directive did not require a guarantee of pension rights in full, and it gave a strong steer that damages would not be payable for breach of the directive earlier than the judgment date. Having carefully considered the terms of the ECJ ruling, the Government believe that the enhanced FAS package announced last week offers a level of protection that is compliant with that judgment.

In its judgment in the judicial review relating to the ombudsman's report, the High Court directed me to reconsider my response to the ombudsman's first recommendation on the basis that maladministration had occurred. I have undertaken my reconsideration on that basis. As a result of that reconsideration we have made this extended FAS package available for all those who suffered losses as a result of their employer's insolvency, and have considered it appropriate to set the assistance at the same level as the protection offered in compliance with the ECJ judgment.

This announcement is not affected by our appeal against one of the High Court's decisions in the ombudsman case. That appeal has been mounted because the judgment raises important legal and constitutional issues, in particular on the relationship between the ombudsman and the Government, and those issues need to be resolved. This extension to FAS will stand, regardless of the result of our appeal against the finding of maladministration.

The extended scheme will now provide assistance to ensure that the pensions of all members of affected pension schemes are topped up to 80 per cent. of the core pension rights accrued in their scheme.

We will more than double the cap on assistance payments to £26,000, and in recognition of the significant difference that £10 a week can make to some pensioners, we will end the de minimis rule that excludes those whose FAS payment would be £10 or less a week. Although FAS payments commence at age 65, they will remain 'inflation proof' up to age 65.

In total an estimated 100,000 will benefit from this extension. 85,000 scheme members will be eligible for assistance for the first time. Around 15,000 people who stood to benefit from FAS under the current scheme will receive more assistance due to the extension.

As a result we expect that all the estimated 125,000 people with losses will be helped. This increases the taxpayer's commitment from £2.3 billion in cumulative cash terms, to £8 billion. This equates to more than doubling the scheme in present value terms, from £830 million to £1.9 billion.

Having now settled the public expenditure support for these schemes, I have today set up a review to:

examine how we make best use of the assets in pension schemes that are winding up under funded with an insolvent employer;

determine if these sources of funding could be used to increase assistance for affected scheme members;

consider any suggestions from interested and concerned parties.

The review will be conducted by the Department for Work and Pensions and advised by a panel of technical experts. Due to the complexity of the issues involved the review will be informed by advice from the Government Actuary Department. This will commence immediately and the review will report by the end of the year.

Let me be clear that the 80 per cent. level of support we have committed is from the taxpayer, and it is not contingent on the release of any other funding source.

Regardless of the review, it continues to be important to the interests of all members of affected pension scheme that schemes are wound up as quickly as possible. Should the review identify an alternative way of using scheme assets we will ensure that no scheme members lose out because their pension scheme has completed the wind up process.

It is also important that trustees continue to apply on behalf of members to the Financial Assistance Scheme for payments and provide member data. Failure to do so will mean that people who could be receiving payments will lose out on the substantial help that is now available.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 29 March 2007

TREASURY

United Kingdom Coins 2008

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve my recommendation that the following coins should be issued in 2008:

a crown piece to celebrate the 60th birthday of the Prince of Wales;

a crown piece to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the accession of Elizabeth I; and

a two-pound coin to mark the 100th anniversary of the London Olympic Games of 1908.

Collector versions of these coins will be released at a premium above face value and, during the course of 2008, the coins will also become available at face value from banks and post offices.

CABINET OFFICE

Compact on Relations between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband): I am today placing in the Library of the Houses of Parliament copies of the report of the annual meeting to review the Compact held on 22 November 2006.

The coming years present the opportunity to make significant steps forward in the implementation of the Compact, building on what has been achieved. This year has seen a record 28 Compact Annual Meeting commendations for excellence, showing that the Compact is increasingly being used as a tool to improve partnership working and increase sector involvement. The publication of the Partnership in Public Services Action Plan, the Local Government White Paper and the review of the future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, will all contribute to the creation of an environment in which Compact principles can flourish.

We will continue to work to ensure that Compact principles become fully embedded in the culture of central and local government bodies and voluntary and community organisations. The appointment of the Commissioner for the Compact, John Stoker, will help us with this process, overseeing partnership working and the operation of the Compact. He will report to future annual reviews on the state of the relationship. The next annual review will look at progress against the Compact Action Plan.

Together we need to achieve consistent good practice, building on the Compact and improving public services, and supporting the sector's role in advocating for and empowering people and communities.

Civil Service Fast Stream Recruitment 2006

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Pat McFadden): The 2006 Fast Stream Recruitment Report was published on-line at http://www.cabinetof.gov.uk today. It summarises the results of the Civil Service Fast Stream recruitment competitions completed in the year ending November 2006.

Key facts and figures from the Report are as follows.

All vacancies in the Graduate Fast Stream scheme, and 93 per cent. of

Fast Stream vacancies overall, were filled.

The proportion of successful female candidates rose to 50.4 per cent.

from 43.7 per cent. in 2005.

The proportion of successful candidates from ethnic minority

backgrounds rose to 11.1 per cent., from 7.1 per cent. in 2005.

The proportion of successful candidates with a declared disability rose

to 7.4 per cent, from 6.7 per cent in 2005.

The Fast Stream selection process itself is subject to continuous review, and the results are monitored in detail to ensure no adverse impact on any particular groups of applicants. We shall continue to work to improve Fast Stream recruitment from the point of view of both applicants and employing Departments.

The Fast Stream Development Programme remains a popular career choice, and has featured continuously in *The Times* Top 10 Graduate Employers since the survey's inception. Over the last five years it has attracted an average of 14,000 applications a year.

Copies of the Report have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Permitted Development Rights for Householder Microgeneration

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): The Government will shortly be issuing a consultation paper on this subject. Copies of this paper will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Council Tax

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): Figures published by my Department on 27 March show that the average council tax increase in England in 2007-08 is 4.2 per cent.

We had made it clear to authorities that we expected to see an average council tax increase of less than 5 per cent. and I am pleased that overall local government has responded in a positive manner in keeping down the average council tax increase.

We have therefore decided not to exercise our reserve capping powers in 2007-08.

However, keeping council tax under control remains a priority for the Government. We will have no hesitation in using our capping powers in future, if the circumstances require it.

Building Control System

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Angela E. Smith): I am today publishing a short report by my Department on options for the future development of the building control system. This report follows in-depth discussion with a wide range of stakeholders over the last year which has raised a number of areas of concern and highlighted the need for reform to the system to ensure that it is fit for purpose now and in the future. This report is not a statement of intended Government policy. It is an indication of those ideas which we believe have the greatest potential for reforming the building control system effectively and which we intend to develop further before issuing a full consultation document later in the year.

The package outlined in the report includes possible reforms in six broad areas:

The Future of Building Control - Establishing the Vision and Strategy for Future

Delivery

Modernising the System - Effective Risk Based Inspection and Enforcement

New Routes to Compliance - Minimising the Burden

Customer-Centric Approach - Improving Guidance and Other Tools to Aid

Individual Compliance

Improving our Approach to Regulation - Stability and Forward Planning

Performance Management and Future Capacity

The report can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at: www.communities.gov.uk/buildingregs and is also available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Government Response to the All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am pleased to announce that I am today laying before Parliament a Command Paper setting out Government's response to the all-party inquiry into Anti-Semitism.

The Government welcome the all-party Parliamentary inquiry's constructive and comprehensive report into anti-Semitism and is grateful to the Committee for the detailed work it has undertaken in this area.

The Government share the Committee's commitment to the eradication of racism and intolerance wherever they exist. We acknowledge that there is no room for complacency, and recognise and commit ourselves to the practical nature of many of the Committee's recommendations.

The Government strongly condemn anti-Semitic incidents and understand the fears and concerns of the Jewish community. Anti-Semitism is not just a problem or concern for the Jewish community but impacts on society as a whole. The Government have a shared responsibility to tackle anti-Semitism and all other forms of racism and prejudice—not only with those communities directly affected, but with all members of society.

We believe the best way to do this is through effective implementation of strong legislation against racial and religious discrimination and racially and religiously motivated crime, underpinned by policies and strategies to increase racial equality and build community cohesion particularly through education.

The document I am publishing today sets out in full the Government's response to each of the Committee's recommendations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Major Works' Costs (Leaseholders)

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): This statement reports progress on the Government's review of the complex issues raised by the high major works bills now faced by some owners of ex-council flats ('leaseholders'). It sets out progress and further steps that the Government will take to address these issues, while looking for other sustainable solutions in the longer term.

Background

Tenants who buy flats from local authorities, and people who buy flats formerly owned by local authorities, are responsible for contributing towards the cost of repairing, maintaining and improving the properties in which those flats are situated.

Some current works of repair, maintenance and improvement to local authority properties are generating high major works bills, particularly in London. We have commissioned research into the impact on leaseholders, and have published the results on our website, at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id:=1504262.

The Government's Review

We recognise that substantial major works bills may cause difficulties for some leaseholders and have consulted widely on the implications with all the stakeholders.

Our review has mainly focused on the range of ways in which local authorities can help leaseholders to pay their bills. It has also considered how landlords currently communicate with leaseholders on scheduled major works and their costs.

Capping of Service Charges

Leaseholders do not always have to pay the full amount that their lease requires. Major works charges are capped to no more than £10,000 in any five-year period when the works are funded by specified Government grants.

Ways of Helping Leaseholders Pay Their Bills

Local authorities can already help leaseholders to pay their bills in a number of ways.

They may reduce bills to no more than £10,000 in any five-year period if the leaseholder would not benefit from the works financially or would face exceptional hardship in paying it.

They must offer loans to leaseholders who have bought their flats under the right-to-buy scheme, if they apply within a specified time, and they may give loans to leaseholders under other circumstances.

They may allow leaseholders to pay their bills by monthly instalments and over an extended period, or defer payment until the property is sold.

They can buy back properties from owners who are in financial difficulties. When doing so, they receive financial assistance from the Government.

Some local authorities offer leaseholders the HouseProud equity release scheme managed by the Home Improvement Trust. A number of lenders also offer other equity release products that can be tailored to people's needs.

Taken together, these offer leaseholders a wide range of options. But we have found that these are not all available in all areas.

What the Government Will Do

We think more can be done in the short term to help leaseholders to deal with high major works bills by means of these existing options, with enhancements and additions in the longer term.

But the alternative of simply extending the existing scheme for capping bills would bring severe problems. Capping all major works bills to £10,000 while taking no account of ability to pay would be very expensive—in London, this could, on current figures, cost more than £40 million.

But we recognise that there may be people whose financial resources are so squeezed that more targeted action may be needed. So we will do the following:

We will make it clear to local authorities that they should:

i. inform and advise all leaseholders who face particularly high major works bills about the available payment options;

ii. offer the full range of available payment options to help leaseholders pay their bills, and share best practice to ensure that this happens everywhere;

iii. use existing resources, such as for private sector renewal which they are already expected to target towards those in need and on low incomes, to assist leaseholders in hardship;

we have in addition increased funding for LEASE so that social sector leaseholders can obtain authoritative advice and help at an early stage and LEASE can expand its alternative dispute resolution and mediation role in respect of social sector service charge disputes that arise;

we will work urgently with lenders and independent financial advisers, landlords and leaseholder representatives to develop the use of existing equity release/equity loan schemes (including 'HouseProud');

in the longer term, we intend to legislate to enable local authorities to offer equity loans to leaseholders, and to buy back shares in properties so that leaseholders in difficulties do not have to revert to being tenants.

We are continuing to look further at ways to address this complex and sensitive issue. These actions represent work in progress. We will also actively monitor developments, to ensure that all concerned focus on the best ways of tackling these issues both now and in the future.

Local Area Agreements

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Government announced the successful roll out of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) across England today.

In October 2004, 21 pilot LAAs were announced for implementation from April 2005. There were a further 66 LAAs signed in March 2006 and a further 62 were signed this month. This achieves the Government's target of having LAAs in every area in England (apart from the Isles of Scilly) from April 2007.

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three-year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area as agreed between central Government and the local authority and local strategic partnership (LSP).

The primary objective of an LAA is to deliver genuinely sustainable communities through better outcomes for local people. As set out in the Local Government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities", the Government are strengthening the role of LAAs and placing them at the heart of the new performance framework for local authorities. LAAs will now apply to all outcomes delivered by local government working alone or in partnership with other organisations. The White Paper puts in place a new framework for strategic leadership in local areas, bringing together partners to focus on the needs of citizens and communities. It offers a deal where the local authority and local partners co-operate with each other on agreeing and delivering the improvement priorities for places.

In 2008 all areas will have moved to a new LAA enabling them to work with even greater flexibility over resources to respond to local priorities. The new LAAs are all about practical solutions for issues which really matter for local people. We are working across Government, with the LGA and with authorities to implement the new arrangements over the course of the next year.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Her Majesty's Courts Service Key Performance Indicators 2007-08*

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor has made the following written ministerial statement:

"The following list of Key Performance Indicators have been set for Her Majesty's Courts Service for 2007-08.

1. Improve the percentage of defendants' cases that commence within a specific time in the Crown Court, so that:

a) 78 per cent. committed for trial commence within 16 weeks of committal

b) 78 per cent. sent for trial commence within 26 weeks of sending

2. Simplify and speed up criminal cases in the magistrates' courts so by the end of 2008: most guilty plea cases are dealt with at the first hearing; most contested cases have no more

than two hearings; the majority of simple charged cases take from a day to six weeks (on average) from charge to disposal.

3. To ensure that 95 per cent. of court registers in the magistrates' court are produced and despatched within three days and all cases cleared within six days.

4. To reduce the proportion of disputed civil claims in the courts that are ultimately resolved by a hearing to 38.5 per cent.

5. To ensure that 81.5 per cent. of small claims cases are heard within 15 weeks.

6. To ensure that 48 per cent. of Public Law Care Cases in the county court and 56 per cent. in the magistrates' court are completed within 40 weeks.

Copies of the HM Courts Service Business Plan for 2007-08 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses."

* More information on these and other key supporting targets are published in the Strategic and Business Plans, which includes how HMCS helps deliver PSA1 and 2 (joint Criminal Justice System targets).

Oxfordshire Inquests

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the inquests of servicemen and women who have died overseas which fall within the jurisdiction of the Oxfordshire coroner, Nicholas Gardiner.

All casualties suffered by the UK armed forces are a source of profound regret. UK service personnel have put their lives on the line to help build strong, stable and democratic nations and protect the interests of the United Kingdom and we cannot pay high enough tribute to the job they are doing, or the sacrifice some of them have made. We are committed to assisting the families of UK Service personnel who have died on operations overseas when their loved ones are returned to the UK.

We made statements to the House on 5 June, 12 October and 18 December with information about the conduct of inquests by the Oxfordshire coroner and today we are announcing progress which has been made since the written ministerial statement in December.

Background

Coroners are independent judicial officers appointed and paid for by the relevant local authority. Their officers and staff are employed by the local authority and/or the police.

Each death of a serviceman or woman killed in an operation overseas whose body is repatriated to England and Wales is subject to an inquest. The inquest – both the investigation into the death and the holding of the public hearing into the death – is conducted by the coroner with jurisdiction which derives from where the body lies. In the case of deaths of servicemen and women whose bodies are flown into Brize Norton military airbase, the Oxfordshire coroner has jurisdiction.

In the 12 months preceding the June written ministerial statement, in addition to the non-armed forces inquests which the coroner has in his jurisdiction, Mr Gardiner and his deputy coroners had conducted 31 inquests into the deaths of servicemen who died in Iraq. One inquest was dealt with by the Powys coroner and one by the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner.

At the time of the 5 June written ministerial statement, there remained 59 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel killed in Iraq and 11 inquests of civilians whose bodies were flown into Brize Norton.

At the time of the 12 October written ministerial statement, a further nine inquests had been held into the deaths of servicemen who have died in Iraq.

When I made the written ministerial statement in June, we had only asked the coroner to provide details of inquests into those deaths in his jurisdiction relating to Iraq. By the time of the October statement the coroner had provided us with details of outstanding inquests into six deaths from previous conflicts or other military exercises abroad and three further civilian casualties, the earliest of which occurred in 1998. The position in relation to the inquests in these additional deaths was reported to the House in the 12 October statement. Including these deaths, there remained 59 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel and 11 inquests into the deaths of civilians at the time of the October statement.

By the time of the December written ministerial statement, the coroner had provided us with details of outstanding inquests into six deaths from a military exercise in the Czech Republic in 2004. Including these deaths, there remained 48 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel and nine inquests into the deaths of civilians who lost their lives in Iraq and whose bodies were repatriated to RAF Brize Norton.

As of today, there remain 25 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel in military conflicts and exercises overseas whose bodies were repatriated to RAF Brize Norton and 4 inquests into the deaths of civilians who lost their lives in Iraq and whose bodies were repatriated to RAF Brize Norton.

Further support for the coroner to conduct inquests on deceased armed forces personnel

As we reported to the House in the earlier statements, the Oxfordshire coroner appointed the following as additional assistant deputy coroners to assist with conducting the inquests detailed above:

Sir Richard Curtis—who served as a High Court Judge between 1992 and 2005, was appointed on 8 August.

Ms. Selena Lynch—barrister at law, former full-time Coroner for Inner South London and currently deputy coroner for South London was appointed on 5 June.

Mr. Andrew Walker—barrister at law, Deputy Coroner for both North London and East London and Assistant Deputy Coroner for both Inner London North and Inner London South was appointed on 5 June.

To provide support for the coroner and his assistant deputy coroners, the following resources have been made available:

Three additional coroner's officers. Mr. Geoff Webb, Mr. George Gatt and Mr. Derrick Bines have been appointed by Thames Valley Police to support the existing complement of five officers and one officer's

team leader in the Oxfordshire coroner's office. They are supporting the coroners in various ways, including by contacting witnesses, listing inquests and providing support at inquests.

An additional administrative assistant, Ms. Stella Hartley-Morris has been appointed to the existing administrative assistant in the Oxfordshire coroner's office who provide administrative support for the investigations and inquests.

Recording equipment—to enable two courts to operate simultaneously.

Progress with the remaining inquests

At the time of the December written ministerial statement, all inquests of deaths had been allocated to the assistant deputy coroners. 19 inquests had been held (the WMS mistakenly stated 18 inquests) the inquest into the death of Sergeant Roberts was currently being held and a further 50 inquests had been listed for hearing (the WMS mistakenly reported 51 inquests).

The position now is that 56 inquests have been held, 46 into the deaths of servicemen and 10 into the deaths of civilians. All of the remaining 25 inquests into servicemen's deaths have been listed for hearing and pre-inquest hearings have been set in the remaining four civilian inquests. We hope that all the inquests will have been heard by the end of June. We are very grateful for the efforts of all those involved.

We shall continue to keep the House informed on a quarterly basis about progress through the remaining inquests. Below is a table, which outlines the status of all cases and the date of death of each case.

We have not included in this statement inquests into a further 66 service personnel deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan which occurred after 15 May 2006 and which were repatriated into Brize Norton, as the additional support for the coroner outlined above only intended to clear the backlog of cases he had in June. 16 of these cases have been dispersed to other coroners but there remain 50 inquests where the Oxfordshire coroner has retained jurisdiction which have been opened and adjourned.

Resources have now been made available to the Oxfordshire Coroner to enable Andrew Walker to remain as assistant deputy coroner with Geoff Webb as coroner's officer to complete those inquests where the Oxfordshire coroner assumed responsibility.

Liaison with the next of kin

It is of the greatest importance that the next of kin have full information about the progress on the inquest of their deceased next of kin.

In order to further improve the service to families I invited to meet me on 4 December 2006 the families of service personnel who died in Iraq whose inquests had been held. We are grateful to the 17 relatives of the 12 deceased servicemen and women who gave us the benefit of their views and experiences so as to improve the inquest system for the benefit of future families of members of the armed service who die abroad.

Following that meeting we are working on providing families with better information about the inquest system, how we can help families to have access to all material relevant to the inquest; and holding inquests closer to where the relatives live.

Oxfordshire coroner: inquests of servicemen and related civilian deaths 1998 to May 2006

	Date of death	*Name of deceased*	*Allocated to*	*In process of being listed for hearing*	*Date listed*	*Date inquest heard*
1	6 July 1998	Kevin Tucker[1]	Andrew Walker			26 February 2007 Narrative verdict
2	11 August 1998	Michael Watkins[1]	Andrew Walker			18 January 2007 Narrative verdict
3	9 April 2001	Flight Lieutenant Maguire[1]	Andrew Walker			22-26 January 2007 Narrative verdicts
4	9 April 2001	Captain Crous[1]	Andrew Walker			
5	21 March 2003	Lance Bombardier Evans	Andrew Walker		16 April 2007	
6	21 March 2003	Sergeant Hehir	Andrew Walker			
7	21 March 2003	Major Ward (Royal Marines)	Andrew Walker			
8	21 March 2003	Captain Guy (Royal Marines)	Andrew Walker			
9	21 March 2003	Warrant Officer 2 Stratford (Royal Marines)	Andrew Walker			
10	21 March 2003	Colour Sergeant Cecil (Royal Marines)	Andrew Walker			
11	21 March 2003	Marine Hedenskog	Andrew Walker			
12	21 March 2003	Operator Maintainer (Communications) I Seymour (Royal Navy)	Andrew Walker			
13	22 March 2003	Lieutenant Wilson	Sir Richard Curtis			3-8 January 2007 Accidental death verdicts
14	22 March 2003	Lieutenant West	Sir Richard Curtis			

Oxfordshire coroner: inquests of servicemen and related civilian deaths 1998 to May 2006

	Date of death	Name of deceased	Allocated to	In process of being listed for hearing	Date listed	Date inquest heard
15	22 March 2003	Lieutenant Green	Sir Richard Curtis			
16	22 March 2003	Lieutenant Williams	Sir Richard Curtis			
17	22 March 2003	Lieutenant King	Sir Richard Curtis			
18	22 March 2003	Lieutenant Lawrence	Sir Richard Curtis			
19	22 March 2003	Flight Lieutenant Main	Andrew Walker			30-31 October 2006 Narrative verdicts
20	22 March 2003	Flight Lieutenant Williams	Andrew Walker			
21	22 March 2003	Sapper Allsopp	Andrew Walker			29 September 2006 Unlawful killing
22	22 March 2003	Staff Sergeant Cullingworth	Andrew Walker			
23	22 March 2003	Terry Lloyd[2]	Andrew Walker			3-13 October 2006 Unlawful killing
24	24 March 2003	Sergeant Roberts	Andrew Walker			11-15 December 2006 Narrative verdict
25	25 March 2003	Corporal Allbutt	Andrew Walker		16 April 2007 (provisional) PIH in w/c/ 16 April 2007	
26	28 March 2003	Lance Corporal of Horse Hull	Andrew Walker			29 January to 2 February 2007 and 12-13 March 2007 Unlawful killing
27	30 March 2003	Lance Corporal Brierley	Nicholas Gardiner			21 June 2006 Accidental death
28	30 March 2003	Marine Maddison	Andrew Walker			20 November 2006 Narrative verdict
29	30 March 2003	Major Ballard	Andrew Walker			27-30 November 2006 Narrative verdict
30	1 April 2003	Lance Corporal Shearer	Selena Lynch			24-26 January 2007 Accidental death
31	6 April 2003	Fusilier Turrington	Andrew Walker			28 September 2006 Narrative verdict
32	6 April 2003	Private Muzvuru	Selena Lynch			17 November 2006 Killed in action
33	6 April 2003	Lance Corporal Malone	Selena Lynch			17 November 2006 Killed in action
34	13 August 2003	Private Smith	Andrew Walker			6-10 November 2006 Narrative verdict
35	23 September 2003	Sergeant Nightingale	Andrew Walker			27 September 2006 Narrative verdict
36	1 January 2004	Sergeant Patterson	Selena Lynch			17 November 2006 Accidental death
37	1 January 2004	Major Stenner				
38	2 January 2004	Lance Corporal Craw	Andrew Walker			8 January 2007 Narrative verdict
39	24 May 2004	Robert Morgan[2]	Nicholas Gardiner			5 July 2006 Unlawful killing
40	24 May 2004	Mark Carman[2]	Nicholas Gardiner			5 July 2006 Unlawful killing

Oxfordshire coroner: inquests of servicemen and related civilian deaths 1998 to May 2006

	Date of death	*Name of deceased*	*Allocated to*	*In process of being listed for hearing*	*Date listed*	*Date inquest heard*
41	22 June 2006	Antonio Jose Monteiro-Abelha[2]	Andrew Walker		PIH in w/e 16 April 2007	
42	28 June 2004	Fusilier Gentle	Selena Lynch		2-4. May 2007	
43	19 July 2004	Flight Lieutenant Gover	Andrew Walker		4 June 2007	
44	9 August 2004	Private O'Callaghan	Nicholas Gardiner			21 June 2006 Unlawful killing
45	9 September 2004	Captain Loose[1]	Andrew Walker		23 April 2007	
46		Sergeant Kemp[1]				
47		Gunner Kelly[1]				
48		Gunner Crain[1]				
49		Gunner Gomersall[1]				
50		Gunner Dimmock[1]				
51	11 October 2004	P Chadwick[2]	Selena Lynch			19.-21 February 2007 Accident
52	31 October 2004	Staff Sergeant Rose	Selena Lynch			13-15 November 2006 She killed herself
53	7 November 2004	Shaun Paul Husband[2]	Andrew Walker		PIH in w/c 16 April 2007	
54	7 November 2004	Joseph Terry[2]				
55	8 November 2004	Private Tukutukuwaqa	Nicholas Gardiner			5 July 2006 Unlawful killing
56	9 December 2004	Raj Gurung[2]	Andrew Walker		PIH in w/c/ 16 April 2007	
57	1 January 2005	John Dolman[2]	Selena Lynch			26 February 2007 Unlawful killing verdicts
58	1 January 2005	Nicholas Pears[2]				
59	1 January 2005	John Eardley[2]				
60	1 January 2005	Tracy Hushin[2]				
61	1 May 2005	Guardsman Wakefield	Selena Lynch			11 December 2006 Unlawful killing
62	25 May 2005	Lance Corporal Brackenbury	Andrew Walker		14 May 2007	
63	29 June 2005	Signaller Didsbury	Andrew Walker			15 January 2007 Narrative verdict
64	15 July 2005	Private Spicer	Selena Lynch			29 January 2007 Unlawful killing in all 3 cases
65	15 July 2005	Private Hewett				
66	15 July 2005	2nd Lieutenant Shearer				
67	30 July 2005	Kenneth Hull[2]	Selena Lynch			13 December 2006 Unlawful killing
68	30 July 2005	Andrew Holloway[2]				
69	5 September 2005	Fusilier Manning	Selena Lynch			15 November 2006 Unlawful killing
70	5 September 2005	Fusilier Meade				
71	30 January 2006	Lance Corporal Douglas	Selena Lynch			17 November 2006 Unlawful killing
72	31 January 2006	Corporal Pritchard	Andrew Walker		21 May 2007	
73	2 February 2006	Trooper Smith	Selena Lynch			23 February 2007 Accident on active service
74	28 February 2006	Private Ellis	Selena Lynch			27 November 2006 Unlawful killing

Oxfordshire coroner: inquests of servicemen and related civilian deaths 1998 to May 2006

	Date of death	*Name of deceased*	*Allocated to*	*In process of being listed for hearing*	*Date listed*	*Date inquest heard*
75	28 February 2006	Captain Holmes				
76	28 February 2006	Lieutenant Palmer	Andrew Walker		21 May 2007	
77	22 March 2006	Corporal Cridge[1]	Selena Lynch			22 February 2007 Suicide
78	27 March 2006	Lance Corporal Craddock[1]	Selena Lynch			22 February 2007 Accident
79	7 May 2006	Wing Commander John Cosen	Andrew Walker		21 May 2007	
80	7 May 2006	Lieutenant Commander Darren Chapman				
81	7 May 2006	Captain David Dobson				
82	7 May 2006	Flight Lieutenant Sarah-Jayne Mulvihill				
83	7 May 2006	Marine Paul Collins				
84	15 May 2006	Private Morris	Selena Lynch			14 March 2007 Both unlawfully killed while on active service

[1] Non-Iraq related military death.
[2] Civilian Iraq related death.

Freedom of Information Act/Data Protection Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): The Parliamentary Under-Secretary, my right hon. Friend Baroness Ashton of Upholland, has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Government are today publishing a supplementary paper to the consultation paper on the draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007, which would give effect to the changes the Government announced it was minded to make on 16 October 2006.

Following the recent consultation of 14 December 2006 the Government are issuing this supplementary paper to consult on the principle of amending the 2004 regulations, specifically whether the 2004 regulations should be amended to deal with the identified problem of requests which are disproportionately burdensome on public authority resources. Further comments on the draft regulations contained in the consultation paper of 14 December 2006 are also welcome.

The draft regulations would extend the existing provisions by allowing public authorities to:

include reading time, consideration time and consultation time in the calculation of the appropriate limit above which requests could be refused on cost grounds; and

aggregate all requests made by a person (or persons apparently acting in concert or pursuance of a campaign) to each public authority within a period of 60 working days for the purposes of calculating the appropriate limit.

An independent economic review of the operation of the Freedom of Information Act commissioned by my Department and published on 16 October 2006 found that a small percentage of requests and requestors were placing disproportionately large burdens on public authorities in terms of the costs of officials' time.

While the Government believe it is entirely right that a reasonable amount of resource is spent dealing with requests for information, it is also necessary to consider, in light of experience, whether the existing provisions need to be amended in order to provide the right balance between access to information for all and the delivery of other public services.

The supplementary paper is published today, with responses being invited by 21 June 2007. The paper will be sent to key stakeholders and all responders to the consultation published on 14 December 2006. Both papers are available on my Department's website at: www.dca.gov.uk and will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Framework Document for the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency 2007

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) has been formed from a merger between the former Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) and the Veterans Agency (VA). The formal launch of the SPVA on 1 April 2007 is marked by the placing in Parliament of the Framework Document 2007.

The Framework Document sets out the roles, responsibilities and required outputs for the agency. Its primary objectives will provide customers with an assurance that SPVA will focus on providing essential services such as pay and pensions to the Armed Forces and Veterans communities, and that SPVA will be committed to provide excellent customer service and increased efficiency.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Voluntary Modulation and the New Rural Development Programme for England

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): In my written parliamentary statement of 20 March, *Official Report*, Col. 38W, I announced that political agreement had been reached at the European level on a new regulation on voluntary modulation which would open the way to the implementation of the new rural development programmes in the UK for the period 2007-2013. The regulation was adopted formally by the Council on Tuesday 27 March.

Now that this regulation is finalised, I am able to announce that the overall budget for the next Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) 2007-2013 will be £3.9 billion. As was the case during 2000-2006, funding an ambitious programme of this size is only made possible through continued use of voluntary modulation. Shifting funding from farm subsidies to payments for environmental services—green farming—is consistent with the Government's long term vision for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Details of the voluntary modulation and co-financing rates that will apply are as follows.

Rates of voluntary modulation

The rate of voluntary modulation to apply in England for Single Payment Scheme (SS) 2006 payments was already established under the old voluntary modulation regulation at 6 per cent.

For the SPS scheme years 2007-2012, I intend to apply the following rates of voluntary modulation, all significantly below the ceiling of 20 per cent. established in the new regulation:

2007-12 per cent.

2008-13 per cent.

2009-14 per cent.

2010-14 per cent.

2011-14 per cent.

2012-14 per cent.

Money generated from modulating SPS in any given year is made available for spend in the subsequent year (i.e. modulation of SPS 2007 is available for use in 2008).

Co-financing

In England, voluntary modulation is essential to enable us to deliver on the commitments we have made to implement effective agri-environment schemes under Axis 2 of the Rural Development Regulation. I attach very high priority to the environmental outcomes we wish to achieve through the Environmental Stewardship Scheme. I am therefore prepared to add a significant amount of national co-financing to voluntary modulation under Axis 2 in order to deliver on these objectives. I shall therefore provide national co-financing for Axis 2—which will account for 80 per cent. of the voluntary modulation funding—at a rate of 40 per cent. In other words, for every £60 taken from pillar 1 direct payments and transferred to Axis 2, I shall add a further £40 from national funding. I do not intend to provide national co-financing for the 20 per cent. of voluntary modulation receipts which will apply to Axes 1 and 3.

Programme budgets

The total programme budget of nearly £4 billion is more than double the amount of money made available under the old England Rural Development Programme 2000-2006.

The budget for the next Rural Development Programme in England is constructed from an EU European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) allocation of around £750 million, plus co-financing from the Government (including some state aided expenditure) of around £850 million. As set out above, this will be supplemented with approximately £1.5 billion generated through voluntary modulation (under the new and old voluntary modulation mechanisms), which will be co-financed with approximately £800 million of national funds.

Of this nearly £3.3 billion will be used to achieve environmental outcomes under Axis 2. A further £277 million will be applied to axis 1, which will be used to help make agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable, and £277 million will be applied to Axis 3, which will be used to enhance opportunity in rural areas.

Some of the additional VM receipts for Axis 1 will be used to fund a specific package of measures designed to assist the livestock industry in tackling some of the particular environmental challenges it faces. I shall make a further announcement as soon as we have worked out the details.

Next Steps

As we have agreement on the overall financing for the new programme for England we can now make quick progress towards finalising all the relevant programme documentation for submission to the Commission for approval. We expect to be able to submit the completed programme by late in the Spring, in preparation for which we shall shortly be consulting further with stakeholders on our plans. Our aim is that this should clear the way for speedy approval of the programme which will enable us to begin the new programme formally in the autumn. Until then, we shall continue to keep the Environmental Stewardship scheme open to new applicants with agreements entered into on a provisional basis.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Return of Bisher Al-Rawi

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Margaret Beckett): The House will be aware that in March 2006 my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary agreed to make representations to seek the return from Guantanamo Bay of an Iraqi national formerly resident in the UK, Mr. Bisher Al-Rawi, based on the particular circumstances in his case. Detailed discussions between the UK and US Governments have been continuing since then.

I would like to inform the House that we have now agreed with the US authorities that Mr. Al-Rawi will be returned to the UK shortly, as soon as the practical arrangements have been made. His family and legal representatives have been informed of the decision, as has his family's constituency MP.

This decision follows extensive discussions to address the security implications of Mr. Al Rawi's return. The UK will continue to take the necessary measures to maintain national and international security.

PRIME MINISTER

Re-Appointment of the Information Commissioner

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I am pleased to announce that The Queen has approved the re-appointment of Mr Richard Thomas as the Information Commissioner, from 29 November this year until his 60th birthday on 18 June 2009.

Machinery of Government Change

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I am today announcing Machinery of Government changes to the Home Office and the Department for Constitutional Affairs. These changes build on the 'Security Crime and Justice' strand of the Government's policy review, which sets the broad direction for the Government's policy response to security, public protection and the criminal justice system issues over the next decade.

The Home Secretary will be developing our capabilities to tackle the threat posed by terrorism. The security and counter-terrorism changes will have immediate effect. Alongside this, a new Ministry of Justice will be established, with the National Offender Management Service and lead responsibility for criminal law and sentencing policy being transferred from the Home Office to the Department for Constitutional Affairs, to create the new Ministry of Justice. This change will take effect from 9 May.

I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses a paper by the Cabinet Office, which sets out these changes in further detail.

Security and Counter-Terrorism

All those working in the field of counter-terrorism, particularly the police, security and intelligence agencies, have worked unstintingly to protect the country from the threat that we face. Our counter-terrorism capabilities are among the best in the world. However, the continuing and growing threat from terrorism means that the Government must develop and improve its counter-terrorism and security capabilities, and its governance.

I am therefore strengthening the role of the Home Secretary and the capabilities of his Department in facing the terrorist threat. While critical areas of the counter-terrorism strategy are overseen by other Secretaries of State, notably the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Home Secretary has the lead responsibility for the strategy in relation to security threats in the UK, including their overseas dimension.

A new Ministerial Committee on Security and Terrorism will be established, subsuming the current Defence and Overseas Policy (International Terrorism) Committee and the counter-radicalisation aspects of the Domestic Affairs Committee's work. The Prime Minister will chair the Committee, with the Home Secretary normally acting as deputy chair, although other Ministers such as the Foreign Secretary, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, will deputise as appropriate. It will be supported by a sub-committee focusing on counter-radicalisation, which will be chaired by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Committee will meet regularly, and will be supported by a more frequent meeting focusing on the threat to the UK, which will be chaired by the Home Secretary.

In order to support the Home Secretary in his new role, an Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism will be established in the Home Office. This will report to the Home Secretary. The Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism will take on overall responsibility for the CONTEST strategy, reporting through the new Ministerial Committee. The Government will also establish a research, information and communications unit in support of the struggle for ideas and values. This will be based in the Home Office, reporting to the Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The changes set out here are aimed at producing a step change in our approach to managing the terrorist threat to the UK and winning the battle for hearts and minds. These changes do not alter the responsibilities of the Foreign or Defence Secretaries, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, or other ministers, or the strategic and operational reporting lines of any of our security and intelligence agencies. The Cabinet Office will retain its role supporting the Prime Minister on national security and counter-terrorism.

Criminal Justice System

A new Ministry of Justice will be established. The National Offender Management Service, including the Prison and Probation Services, will move from the Home Office to the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 9 May, to form the new Ministry. The Home Office will retain its other existing responsibilities, including for policing, antisocial behaviour, drugs, overall crime reduction, immigration, asylum and identity, in addition to its responsibilities for security and counter-terrorism.

The Ministry of Justice will be responsible for policy on the overall criminal, civil, family and administrative justice system, including sentencing policy, as well as the courts, tribunals, legal aid and constitutional reform. It will help to bring together management of the criminal justice system, meaning that once a suspect has been charged their journey through the courts, and if necessary prison and probation, can be managed seamlessly.

The Ministry of Justice will take the leading role in delivering a fairer, more effective, speedy and efficient justice system, and also in reducing re-offending. In doing so it will, with the Home Office and the Attorney-General's Office, respect the vital roles and independence of the judiciary and the prosecuting authorities.

Public protection and crime reduction will continue to be the core focus of Government policy. The Government have made clear that prison will continue to be necessary to protect the public from the most serious offenders, although some non-dangerous offenders do not need to be in custody because their offending can better be addressed through non-custodial means. The Government have announced plans to build a further 8,000 prison places by 2012, having already increased capacity by 19,700 since 1997.

Criminal law and sentencing policy will move to the new Ministry of Justice. In order to maintain the Government's clear focus on public protection, the Home Secretary will continue to have a core role in decision making in this area, reflecting his responsibilities for crime reduction. The Secretary of State for Justice will work with the Home Secretary, the Attorney-General and other ministers to ensure flexible and effective responses to different types of crime, from anti-social behaviour to serious and organised criminality, including through the expansion of summary powers. Government policy in this area will, in future, be decided by a new Cabinet Committee on Crime and the Criminal Justice System, chaired by the Prime Minister.

Responsibility for the Crown Prosecution Service and the other prosecuting authorities will remain with the Attorney-General, who has a statutory duty to superintend them. The prosecuting authorities are an integral part of the criminal justice system and the Ministry of Justice will continue to work with the Attorney General's Office to deliver a world-class criminal justice system.

The existing trilateral arrangements have been a success in delivering improvements to the criminal justice system, and will continue under the new structure. To facilitate this, there will continue to be a shared National Criminal Justice Board and an Office for Criminal Justice Reform, based in the Ministry of Justice, which will work trilaterally between the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office.

The relationship between the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice remains vital, and strong working level agreements will be put in place, for example between the National Offender Management Service, the Police, and the Immigration and Nationality Department.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Public Attitudes to Alternatives to Prosecution

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. and learned Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I am today arranging for the publication of research commissioned by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform from IPSOS MORI on public attitudes to alternatives to prosecution.

The research, conducted during March 2006, involved interviews with 1,027 people aged 15 and over in England and Wales and four focus groups. There were also six focus groups with victims and witnesses to test their views of out of court penalties for adults and youths. The research was commissioned as part of a review of out of court penalties which I have been leading.

Whilst the research has been available to criminal justice practitioners since last June, we are now putting it into the public domain because of the general interest in its existence. The findings show that:

Nine out of 10 participants think that first time minor criminal offences need not necessarily be dealt with by the courts;

Half of those participants think a caution or reprimand would be the most appropriate disposal;

Six out of 10 participants think that second minor offences (that this is after a FPN or warning has been given) could be dealt with out of the courts;

A quarter of participants think the best way to deal with second minor offences is by a caution with conditions attached, such as compensation or making amends;

A 44 per cent. majority of participants felt the most appropriate way to deal with offenders who own up to minor offences was for them to make amends to the victim, for example by compensation or an apology.

I am placing copies of the material in the Libraries of both Houses."

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

East Midlands Development Agency

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I have decided to appoint the new Board Members listed at Annexe A for a period of two years and eight months.

The appointments will begin on 2 April 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2009. These appointments were made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

I attach biographical details of the new appointees at Annexe B.

Annexe A

New Appointments

Appointment will commence on 2 April 2007

RDA	*Name*
East Midlands Development Agency (emda)	Haydn Biddle
	Tricia Pedlar

Annexe B

Biographies

Haydn Biddle

Currently Chief Executive of George Baternan & Son Ltd. a position held since 1994. The previous eight years were spent at Scottish & Newcastle Breweries PLC were he became Managing Director of Newcastle Breweries Ltd. Previous employment was with Proctor & Gamble Ltd. where he became Associate Advertising Manager.

He is currently Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of the University of Northumbria, Deputy Chair of Lincolnshire and Rutland Learning and Skills Council, Chair of Princes Trust, Lincolnshire. Also holds Non-Executive Directorships with J.D. Wetherspoon, Bullman Pub Company Ltd, Boston, Investors in Lincoln, The Newcastle Initiative, Newcastle Enterprise Trust and St. Mary's Training and Enterprise Centre, Newcastle.

Tricia Pedlar

Founded and is Managing Director of Strategic Spur Ltd., Marketing Consultancy in 2004. Previous ten years worked for Boots PLC where she became Head of Global Market Research for Boots Healthcare International. Previous to this spent seven years with Smith & Nephew Consumer Products as Group National Account manager.

Is currently an East Midlands Business Champion, an active member of Women in Rural Enterprise (WiRE), Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce and the County Land and Business Association.

Financial Reporting Council - Changes to Governance Arrangements

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): Sir Christopher Hogg, the Chairman of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), is today publishing proposals for consultation on measures to improve the FRC's internal governance. The Government welcomes this consultation

The FRC is the independent UK regulator and standard setter for accounting, auditing and the actuarial profession. The FRC's remit was significantly expanded in 2004 as a result of the Government's review of audit and accounting regulation, following the corporate scandals in the United States and elsewhere earlier in the decade. Its responsibilities were further expanded in 2006 to include actuarial standards and regulation, as recommended by the Morris Review.

Since his appointment as Chair in January 2006 Sir Christopher has been reviewing the FRC's internal governance arrangements. While these arrangements have operated well, Sir Christopher has concluded there is now a strong case for changes to enhance the FRC's transparency, efficiency and independence. The Government agree with Sir Christopher's view and welcomes the consultation document he is publishing.

The changes Sir Christopher is proposing include merging the FRC Council, which at around 30 members is a large group, and its management board, to form a single governing body of directors. The new governing body would be larger than the existing six-strong board, to enhance its balance, composition and effectiveness. The majority of the governing body will be non-executive directors, including the Chair and Deputy Chair. In addition, the chairs of the FRC's operating bodies would become directors for the first time.

Sir Christopher is also recommending changes to the process for appointing directors to support the new arrangements and ensure the new governing body reflects the range of skills and experience required. At present, the Secretary of State inakes all appointments to the Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief Executive who is appointed by the FRC. Under the new arrangements, the Secretary of State would appoint only the Chair and Deputy Chair of the FRC. The other directors would be appointed by a Nominations Committee chaired by the FRC Chair, through an open and transparent process, following the same principles as set out for public appointments by the Office of the Commissioner for public appointments. The committee, guided by a template of the range of skills and experience the board should include, will establish clear, objective criteria for individual appointments.

The Government believe the FRC has adapted well to its new responsibilities, and that it continues to receive strong support from companies, investors, the accountancy profession and other stakeholders. The Government are therefore confident the FRC under the new governance arrangements will continue to make an essential contribution to ensuring open, efficient and competitive markets and a strong enterprising corporate sector. Corporate reporting and governance in the UK are widely recognised domestically and internationally as being of a very high standard generally. The FRC's integrated and market-led approach to regulation effectively underpins these standards.

Insolvency Service Performance Targets 2007-08

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today agreed to the publishing of the Insolvency Service's Corporate Plan for the period 2007-10.

The Insolvency Service plans to deal with some 77,000 new insolvencies in the year to 31 March 2008, principally as a result of a further increase in personal bankruptcies.

Its planning assumption for the level of redundancy payments and other insolvency-related claims is 90,000 in the year.

Action will continue to be taken against bankrupts and company directors in respect of financial misconduct or dishonesty and I have asked the service to increase its enforcement output by 7 per cent. over that achieved in 2006-07. Companies Investigation Branch will continue to investigate the affairs of companies in the public interest and I have set targets in relation to the timeliness of dealing with complaints made and the handling of investigations that follow from those complaints.

The service's "Enabling the Future" strategy, a major programme of IT led investment, will deliver savings over the period of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review and I have therefore set the service a target to have reduced its case administration fees by 15 per cent. by 31 March 2011.

The Corporate Plan is available at: www.insolvency.gov.uk

I have also set the Insolvency Service the following targets for the year 2007-08:

Published Targets 2007-08	*Target 2007-08*	*Target 2006-07*
Case Administration Targets		
Reduce bankruptcy and company administration fees by 2010-11 from 1 April 2007 baseline by	15%	New Target
Maintain satisfaction level of bankrupts and directors	91%	New Target
Increase satisfaction level of insolvent creditors from 82.6% to	84%	New Target

Published Targets 2007-08	*Target 2007-08*	*Target 2006-07*
Enforcement		
Increase the level of public confidence in the service's enforcement regime from 62.8% to	65%	60%
To reduce the average time from insolvency order to the instigation of disqualification proceedings in appropriate cases	22 Months	New Target
Increase the quantity of enforcement outputs in 2007-08 from 2006-07 baseline by	7%	New Target
Companies Investigation		
Complete consideration of vetting complaints within 2 months	90%	New Target
Complete internal Section 447 investigations within 6 months	90%	New Target
Redundancy Payments		
Maintain the cost of redundancy payment processing at the 2006-07 baseline	Maintain costs at 2006-07	New Target
Process Redundancy Payment claims for payment		
Within		
3 Weeks	78%	78%
6 Weeks	92%	92%
Increase satisfaction level of redundant employees	78%	New
from 74.2% to		Target

In addition to these targets the service is required to meet centrally promulgated targets relating to replying to correspondence from hon. Members, making payments to suppliers and reducing sick absence levels. The service will also look to maintain Charter Mark and Investors in People accreditation following reassessments during 2007-08.

Other Targets	*Target 2007-08*	*Target 2006-07*
Reply to correspondence from Members of Parliament within 10 days	100%	100%
Process payments to suppliers in 30 days	100%	100%
Reduce the level of sick absence	7.5 man days per employee	8.5 man days per employee

WORK AND PENSIONS

United Nations Convention on Disability Rights

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): The United Kingdom played an active role in negotiating a new convention on disability rights, which was adopted by the United Nations on 13 December 2006. On the 14 December, the Prime Minister said that he hoped the UK would be among the first states to sign the convention, *Official Report*, written answers, column 1288W.

The convention opens for signature on 30 March and our signature tomorrow and that of other states will mark a significant step forward to ensuring that around 650 million disabled people worldwide will enjoy their human rights on an equal basis with every one else. It is the culmination of negotiations lasting more than four years in which disabled people have played a central role in the content of the convention.

Work is underway to check the UK's legislation, policies and practices against the convention's obligations. Before ratification, the convention will be laid as a command paper before both Houses of Parliament, together with an explanatory memorandum. It will also be sent to the Joint Committee on Human Rights for them to consider. Either, or both Houses, might decide to hold a debate.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 March 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

European Development Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds were committed by his Department to *(a)* European Development Fund (EDF) 7, *(b)* 8, *(c)* 9, and *(d)* 10; and what commitment has been made to the general European Commission budget for development assistance. [126837]

Mr. Thomas: The following table sets out the commitment levels for each of the European Development Funds (EDFs) 7, 8, 9, and 10; the UK percentage share of each EDF; and the corresponding commitment made by the Department for International Development (DFID).

EDF	Total commitment € billion	UK share (percentage)	DFID commitment € billion
7	10.940	16.37	1.791
8	12.840	12.69	1.629
9	13.800	12.69	1.751
10	22.682	14.82	3.361

Under the current financial perspective, covering years 2007 to 2013, the European Commission has committed €57 billion to overseas assistance from its general budget. Of this, the average UK share over the period is likely to be 17.40 per cent., amounting to a total of €9.9 billion.

Namibia: Overseas Aid

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps have been taken by his Department to twin individual Namibian schools with schools in the United Kingdom. [125292]

Hilary Benn: DFID supports partnerships between schools in the UK and Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean through a programme called DFID Global School Partnerships (DGSP). The programme is managed by the British Council, under contract to DFID. It provides advice and guidance, professional development opportunities and grants to schools that are using partnerships as a means to develop and embed a global dimension within their curriculum.

There are currently four UK-Namibian partnerships through DGSP:

Hey with Zion VC Primary School in Oldham works with John Shekudja Combined School;

Warlingham School in Surrey works with Udjombala Junior Secondary School;

Alsager School in Stoke on Trent works with Oshilemba Combined School; and

St. Michael's CE Primary School in Herefordshire is partnered with Emma Hoogen Hout School.

In addition, the British Council operates a programme, not funded by DFID, called 'Connecting Classrooms'. This links schools in the UK with schools in Africa—including Namibia.

Under this programme 'partnerships' between schools are supported. Each partnership consists of three UK schools, plus three schools from one African country and three schools from another African country. Each partnership is entitled to £15,000 per year, for up to three years, to take part in study visits, to purchase materials, and meet certain other associated costs.

In 2006-07, two sets of twinning partnerships under 'Connecting Classrooms' involved Namibia: the first was a group of three schools in Namibia, twinned with three schools in Leeds and three schools in Zimbabwe. The second was a group of three schools in Namibia, twinned with three schools in Devon and three schools in Nigeria.

Overseas Aid: Education

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's spending on educational programmes was in each year since 2000, broken down by country. [123253]

Mr. Thomas: DFID bilateral expenditure on education in each of the last five years is shown in table 1.

Table 1: DFID bilateral expenditure on education

	Expenditure (£000)
2000-01	165,612
2001-02	134,179
2002-03	165,133
2003-04	221,887
2004-05	269,761
2005-06	249,799

DFID also contributes to the funding of a range of multilateral organisations, a proportion of which will go towards education. The total amount of funding through multilateral agencies is published in Statistics on International Development, a copy of which is available in the Library. Summary information for major agencies relevant to education is provided in table 2. This information cannot be broken down by country.

Table 2: Total DFID expenditure on the funding of selected multilateral organisations

£ million

Multilateral organisation	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
European Community	708	730	871	1,031	951	917
International Development Association	233	214	221	381	204	271

Table 2: Total DFID expenditure on the funding of selected multilateral organisations

Multilateral organisation	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ million 2005-06
UNICEF	3	18	20	18	24	32
UNESCO	3	3	3	3	3	3
African Development Fund	13	29	33	32	35	34
Asian Development Fund	25	27	26	24	22	19

Direct DFID bilateral expenditure on education for the past six years broken down by country is shown in table 3. These figures include general and sector budget support where it has been scored against education. In the case of Afghanistan, DFID provided £35 million to the Reconstruction Trust Fund in 2005-06 and a proportion of this will have been spent on education but not included in the figures. These figures exclude DFID spending through multilateral agencies and civil society organisations.

Table 3: Direct DFID bilateral expenditure on education between 2000-01 and 2005-06

Country	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£000 2005-06
Afghanistan	47	—	—	—	—	—
Angola	19	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla	1,183	1,004	351	75	123	34
Antigua and Barbuda	701	383	48	—	—	—
Argentine Republic	7	—	—	—	—	—
Bangladesh	9,614	6,605	9,057	7,006	17,656	27,894
Barbados	46	53	73	3	—	—
Belarus, Republic of	4	—	—	—	—	—
Belize	172	42	—	—	—	—
Bhutan	1	—	—	-7	—	—
Bolivia	199	35	15	500	—	—
Botswana	580	511	332	146	4	4
Brazil	517	416	172	—	—	—
British Virgin Islands	10	—	27	1	—	—
Bulgaria	345	—	—	—	—	—
Burma	13	—	—	—	—	1
Burundi	14	—	—	—	—	1,600
Cambodia	884	441	182	91	58	16
Cameroon	257	200	230	21	—	—
Caribbean	437	216	96	40	—	—
Cayman Islands	20	—	—	—	—	—
China	3,860	2,276	6,246	5,894	10,950	2,225
Colombia	1	—	—	—	—	3
Congo, Dem Rep	—	—	—	61	290	148
Czech Republic	165	103	126	28	—	—
Dominica	294	257	7	—	—	120
East Timor	109	56	1,315	1,319	1,339	432
Ecuador	7	—	—	—	—	—
Egypt, Arab Republic	301	357	590	567	725	6
Eritrea	11	—	—	—	—	—
Ethiopia	19	21	80	210	861	1,936
Fiji	57	52	26	—	—	—
Gambia, The	6	—	47	73	10	675
Ghana	6,894	3,996	12,119	14,693	14,954	15,166
Grenada	—	9	—	—	—	99
Guyana	1,459	2,524	2,909	1,939	578	857
Honduras	53	51	29	60	53	43
India	19,277	17,845	30,077	41,873	92,493	97,885
Indonesia	888	693	623	586	544	497
Iran	9	—	—	—	—	—
Iraq	—	—	—	11,313	436	8
Jamaica	1,050	1,589	1,439	544	—	—
Jordan	801	594	270	25	—	—
Kenya	13,711	4,963	1,984	18,924	5,847	5,478
Kiribati	13	19	12	-3	—	—
Korea DPRK (North)	83	42	—	—	—	—

Table 3: Direct DFID bilateral expenditure on education between 2000-01 and 2005-06

Country	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£000 2005-06
Laos	55	—	—	—	—	—
Latvia	12	—	—	—	—	—
Lebanon	8	—	—	—	—	—
Lesotho	194	109	53	12	—	—
Liberia	—	—	—	—	630	389
Madagascar	—	—	6	28	54	—
Malawi	16,015	12,778	2,384	8,864	9,841	2,677
Malaysia	346	220	137	4	—	—
Mali	4	6	—	—	—	—
Mauritius	19	—	—	—	—	—
Moldova, Republic of	—	—	—	—	—	—
Montserrat	1,503	836	1,167	1,388	1,023	1,144
Mozambique	3,709	5,420	3,225	3,461	6,464	8,899
Namibia	394	423	234	112	23	—
Nauru	—	6	32	2	—	—
Nepal	1,601	1,251	358	490	2,637	5,643
Nicaragua	—	—	10	31	95	170
Nigeria	1,097	739	461	1,438	4,087	9,937
Pakistan	1,684	1,732	2,192	2,233	336	1,016
Papua New Guinea	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peru	320	66	57	485	126	4
Philippines	—	—	64	82	65	35
Pitcairn Islands	—	—	—	—	3	3
Poland	25	—	—	—	—	—
Romania	43	2	—	—	—	—
Russian Federation	5	—	—	—	—	—
Rwanda	8,818	7,248	9,437	2,756	2,255	6,045
Serbia and Montenegro	—	400	—	—	—	24
Seychelles	—	-1	—	—	—	—
Sierra Leone	4	—	—	—	—	28
Slovak Republic	114	7	7	1	—	—
Solomon Islands	6	55	13	6	—	—
Somali Democratic Rep	75	44	119	377	576	784
South Africa, Republic of	6,062	4,938	7,892	11,549	8,267	5,449
South Pacific	560	716	694	461	189	168
Southern Africa	—	40	72	84	53	—
Sri Lanka	1,279	1,346	971	1,431	593	515
St. Helena	2,232	2,086	2,316	2,375	4,168	3,952
St. Lucia	—	2	—	—	—	85
St. Vincent and Grenadines	98	68	—	—	—	75
Sudan	82	53	1,777	2,117	943	2,404
Swaziland	32	39	35	24	—	—
Tajikistan, Republic of	74	—	74	—	—	7
Tanzania	23,430	18,042	27,299	36,102	39,049	111
Trinidad and Tobago	126	52	74	28	—	—
Turks and Caicos Islands	315	805	444	32	143	-161
Uganda	16,391	13,172	14,565	1,776	474	51
Ukraine	215	112	66	—	6	1
United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vietnam	1,022	599	1,266	5,497	3,673	10,630
West Bank and Gaza	424	176	843	231	10	26
Windward Islands	9	63	58	524	615	634
Yemen, Rep of (YAR to May 1990)	—	—	—	88	548	2,202
Zambia	893	3,113	3,565	7,147	6,162	6,660
Zimbabwe	91	117	63	190	120	140

Note:
The sum of country expenditure does not match expenditure reported in table 1. The expenditure in table 1 also contains regional and global programmes which are not country specific and expenditure through civil society organisations.

Sudan: Returns

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the UK will be making to the UN high commissioner for refugees appeal to help southern Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons to return home. [126685]

Hilary Benn: The return of people to their homes in Sudan is a major priority for the international community in 2007, particularly in the first half of the year, before the rains make movement difficult. DFID has channelled all its funding for the returns process through the UN-administered common humanitarian fund (CHF). The multi-donor CHF is an ideal way of supporting returns as it provides fast and predictable funding. Of the $133 million allocated so far by the CHF (of which the DFID contribution makes up 60 per cent.), $12.4 million was given to support the returns process.

A considerable amount of the CHF funding for other sectors (e.g. water and sanitation, health and nutrition) in the south ($50 million) and the three areas ($17.8 million) is also targeted at areas of return for refugees and the internally displaced.

Of the $63 million that the United Nations high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) received last year for similar operations, the CHF provided $14 million.

Sudan: International Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to assist the Government of Southern Sudan to develop the civil service there. [126280]

Hilary Benn: The UK is playing a lead role in support of civil service development for both the Government of the Southern Sudan (GOSS) and the 10 state governments in the South. We have allocated £2 million of bilateral support to a capacity building programme for GOSS. Its achievements to date include service training for newly recruited officials at different levels in central and state level Government and technical assistance for government accountants. We are also supporting civil service reform through the Multi Donor Trust Fund's Capacity Building, Institutional and Human Resource Development in Southern Sudan Project, UNDP and the African Development Bank.

Sumatra: Earthquakes

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid he is making available to the survivors of the earthquake in Sumatra. [126706]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has been monitoring the situation in Sumatra since the earthquake struck at 3.49 GMT (10.49 local time) on Tuesday 6 March.

The Indonesian authorities and the United Nations report that 71 people have died, 192 people have been injured and several hundred homes have been destroyed.

The Government of Indonesia has sent medical teams to the area and is coordinating delivery of relief items including tents and water. The Indonesian military is providing relief kitchens and clinics.

The Government of Indonesia has not requested international assistance. We remain ready to respond to requests that the Government may make and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bats: Conservation

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost per application of obtaining the expert advice required to support an application for a bat licence under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. [125803]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* Obtaining expert advice in relation to supporting applications for bat licences is a private and commercial matter for the applicant. Consequently, DEFRA does not hold this information.

Birds of Prey

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the evidential basis is for the contention in the review of bird registration that whilst there is evidence that the peregrine is persecuted, it is not for the reasons outlined in the criteria for including the species on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; [125179]

(2) what his policy is on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's recommendation to retain the peregrine falcon on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [125180]

Barry Gardiner There is no reference in the review to the contention to which the hon. Member refers. Peregrine falcons are, of course, already listed on schedule 4 of the 1981 Act. In the Consultation on the Review of Registration under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in England, Scotland and Wales, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's (JNCC) recommendation is for the peregrine falcon to be retained on schedule 4.

My officials will shortly put the results of the recent consultation exercise to me. Therefore, it is too early for me to take a view on the JNCC's recommendation.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the saker falcon will be subject to a fresh review by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee as a candidate for listing in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in view of its endangered status. [125231]

Barry Gardiner: We are currently in the midst of a review of schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in which we are reviewing the status of all endangered birdspecies, including the saker falcon.

Birds: Conservation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the costs of operating the Bird Registration Scheme under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what proportion of these costs are paid by bird keepers. [124672]

Barry Gardiner: The cost of running the Bird Registration Scheme for 2005-06 was £304,828. 23.7 per cent. (£72,208) of this was recovered in fees from keepers.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what conclusions were drawn from *(a)* the Review of Bird Registration and CITES licensing fees in 1999 and *(b)* the review of charges for CITES licences and permits in 2004; and whether any changes were made to the fees charged following each review. [124673]

Barry Gardiner: In 1999, there was a review of CITES fees which officials subsequently withdrew as being unworkable. The 2004 review resulted in proposals for an increase of CITES fees but, subsequently, this was withdrawn following detailed consultations with HM Treasury.

No changes were made to fees as a result of these consultation exercises. Both exercises were solely concerned with CITES fees and charges and were not concerned with bird registration fees.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates have been made of the cost implications for enforcement and conservation agencies of the proposals contained within his Department's Review of Bird Registration. [124674]

Barry Gardiner: My officials are currently assessing the implications of the consultation exercise. As part of that exercise, I will require them to produce, and publish, a full regulatory impact assessment which will quantify the cost implications of any proposed changes. At the moment, it is too early in the process for me to make any comment on the cost implications.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there is a minimum infrastructure cost associated with running the Bird Registration scheme; and whether reducing the number of birds on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 would reduce income from bird keepers. [124675]

Barry Gardiner: There are fixed costs such as running costs for the IT system. However, these are extremely small (less than 5 per cent. of the total).

Currently, keepers pay per registration, that is, per bird. Therefore, reducing the number of species listed on schedule 4 would reduce the number of fees (income) paid by keepers.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken *(a)* to improve the training of veterinary surgeons undertaking TB testing and *(b)* to improve the management of State Veterinary Service staff undertaking TB testing since the DNV Consulting report on Veterinary Surgeons within the Meat Hygiene Service. [125777]

Mr. Bradshaw: The DNV Consulting Report, 'Review of TB Testing' looked at the way instructions, procedures and interpretive material for TB testing were promulgated, reviewed and complied with by local veterinary inspectors (LVIs) in England and Wales. It considered testing by LVIs and staff within the State Veterinary Service (SVS), not the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS). The MHS does not carry out TB testing on live cattle.

A CD-Rom training package is being prepared for use by all veterinary surgeons undertaking TB testing which will be rolled out in the near future. The instructions for carrying out the test have been revised. At the same time we are developing plans for refresher training for SVS staff and more formal monitoring procedures.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* beef cows and *(b)* dairy cows were compulsorily slaughtered because of bovine tuberculosis in (i) Great Britain, (ii) England, (iii) Wales and (iv) each county in each year since 1997; and how many have been slaughtered in 2007. [126160]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of cattle, broken down by beef and dairy cows, slaughtered under bovine TB measures in each county of Great Britain, over the time period requested, is not routinely available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. I have arranged for details of the total number of cattle slaughtered under bovine TB measures in each county, from 1997 to 2006, along with provisional data for January 2007, to be placed in the Library of the House.

1998 to 2005 data is also available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/county.htm

Common Agricultural Policy: Reform

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on Common Agricultural Policy subsidies and reform in favour of aiding the use of excess crop production for the domestic production of bio-fuels. [125562]

Ian Pearson: The Government have regular discussions with other member states and the European Commission on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). These discussions are likely to become more frequent as we move towards the proposed 'healthcheck' in 2008.

Our objectives for the CAP include completing the process of decoupling direct aid and the removal of compulsory set-aside land so that farmers across the EU are free to produce crops in response to market demand. We also aim to end the intervention system which leads to surplus production.

We will consider the existing CAP measures that support the production of biofuels in the context of these objectives, and Government initiatives to promote the use of bio-energy in road transport fuels.

Departments: Discrimination

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in achieving gender equality in public appointments to bodies which fall within his Department's responsibility since 1997. [125211]

Barry Gardiner: The Government remain committed to improving diversity on the boards of public bodies and the principle of equal representation of women and men in public appointments. The annual Cabinet Office publication, "Public Bodies", contains details of the number of women appointed to public bodies each year by Department. For 2001-06 copies of these documents are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departments: Orders and Regulations

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on departments: orders and regulations, how many general and local statutory instruments were made by his Department in each year since 2001. [125688]

Barry Gardiner: The numbers of local and general statutory instruments made by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs between 2001 and 2006 are as follows:

	General	*Local*
2001	143	373
2002	124	2
2003	109	2
2004	131	5
2005	130	15
2006	145	9

Departments: Video Conferencing

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many video conferences have been held by his Department in each year since 2001. [126018]

Barry Gardiner: *[holding answer 8 March 2007]*: Statistical information on videoconferencing usage is not held centrally. Defra and its associated agencies have 76 videoconferencing units. Fifteen of these units have been managed by IBM since mid-2005 and the following statistics relate to bookings made for those units only. The other units are mainly on Defra agency sites and are managed locally. To collate the requested usage information from these sites would incur a disproportionate cost to the Department.

	Number
2005[1]	304
2006	935

[1] October to December.

Dolphins: Imports

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dolphins were imported into the United Kingdom from Japan in each of the last 10 years. [125630]

Mr. Bradshaw: No dead or live dolphins have been imported into the United Kingdom from Japan during the last 10 years.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding he has made available to Natural England for the creation of *(a)* entry level and *(b)* higher level environmental stewardship schemes during the contingency period before the new rural development programme for England is approved by the European Commission. [125035]

Barry Gardiner: As the Secretary of State made clear in his announcement on 12 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, we have kept the Environmental Stewardship Scheme open to new applications in advance of formal approval of the Rural Development Programme for England.

Agreements entered into since 1 January are provisional and are being funded from existing indicative budgets agreed when the scheme was launched. No specific, separate budget has been made available for the period prior to programme approval.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many agreements on the creation of *(a)* entry level and *(b)* higher level environmental stewardship schemes he expects Natural England to offer before the new England rural development programme commences; and what he expects the financial value of these agreements to be. [125036]

Barry Gardiner: The final, total number of new agreements entered into on a contingency basis since 1 January will depend on the date the new Rural Development Programme for England is approved. During this period, Natural England is continuing to work towards existing targets. That is, by the end of 2007, some 60 per cent. of the agricultural area in England will be managed under an Entry Level Scheme agreement. We are also working towards a target of having some 525,000 hectares of land under a combination of either Higher Level Stewardship or the previously operated Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Fisheries: EC Law

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of EU Council regulation 41/2006, on thornback ray, on the fishing industry in Kent and Essex. [126916]

Mr. Bradshaw: I am aware of the concerns among this sector of the industry about the effects of this piece of EC legislation on their viability. We are urgently exploring with them options to adapt and respond to the new obligations.

Food: Procurement

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has held with other Ministers on the sourcing of publicly procured food; and what proportion of such food was of British origin in 2006. [123634]

Barry Gardiner: My right hon. friend the Secretary of State, together with ministerial colleagues at DfES and DOH spoke at the conference—Food and Farming: Reconnecting a New Generation, on 29 November. The conference promoted sustainable sourcing of food throughout the public sector under the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative; promoted opportunities for farmers and producers to supply public sector contracts; and launched the Year of Food and Farming—an industry-wide initiative supported by DEFRA, DfES and DOH. Other Government agencies are contributing to the initiative which also involves subject associations, teacher associations, key food, farming and countryside sector bodies, together with businesses working in the food, farming and countryside sectors.

The Department does not hold information on the proportion of publicly procured food of British origin in 2006. The Department is commissioning a MORI survey of local education authorities in England and is also working with its statisticians, key public sector procurers, the NFU, other trade bodies and the major food service companies to produce this information which it will place in the Library of the House when it is available.

Forestry: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will advance the payment of support to those landowners who use their land for forestry for the purposes of developing carbon sinks. [124466]

Barry Gardiner: Climate change mitigation is just one of the many benefits of tree planting. The principal objectives of the woodland creation, supported by the Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme, are environmental and social.

The Forestry Commission has already contractually committed most of its woodland creation grants budget for payment in the 2007-08 financial year. There are no plans to offer any new contracts for woodland creation grants until the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 has been approved by the EU Commission.

Greyhounds: Waste Disposal

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions has he had with *(a)* the Environment Agency and *(b)* other authorities on the exhumation of the bodies of greyhounds killed at Seaham, County Durham. [126464]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 March 2007]*: DEFRA Ministers have not held discussions with the Environment Agency or other authorities specifically on this matter. However, my officials have monitored progress and briefed Ministers accordingly.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what compensation or redress is available to those who have received unsatisfactory service under the Warm Front scheme; [125080]

(2) how many contractors have been removed from the Warm Front scheme by Eaga Partnership because of unsatisfactory performance; [125087]

3) what sanctions are applied by Eaga Partnership when contractors carry out unsatisfactory work as part of the Warm Front scheme. [125088]

Ian Pearson: The Scheme Manager, the Eaga Partnership, continually monitor and audit contractors appointed to work under the Warm Front Scheme. It has introduced vendor-rating systems against which contractors are assessed.

The vendor rating system provides an assessment of contractors using various criteria including (but not limited to) customer service, professionalism and workmanship. The vendor rating of each contractor determines the level of work they receive in the future.

Contractors who irrevocably fall short of these standards can be removed from the Warm Front Scheme. However, no contractors have been removed to date under the second phase of Warm Front.

If a Warm Front customer feels that they have received unsatisfactory service from the scheme they can in the first instance complain to the Eaga Customer Complaints Team. Should they not be satisfied with the response they can pursue matters with the Defra Fuel Poverty Team, Defra Service Standards Complaints Adjudicator Unit, Defra Ministers or The Parliamentary Ombudsman.

With regards to possible redress/compensation, this will depend on the specifics of each case.

Meat: Origin Marking

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of imported

foreign meat that was subsequently labelled as being British in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [125182]

(2) what steps he is taking to prevent imported foreign meat being labelled as British. [125183]

Barry Gardiner: Where meat has been subject to substantial processing, it is permissible to describe as its origin the country where that change took place. If the absence of information might mislead consumers, then Guidance on Country of Origin Labelling and Clear Food Labelling produced by the Food Standards Agency suggests that both the origin of the meat and the country where the processing takes place should be declared in order to facilitate informed consumer choice. More restrictive rules apply to beef and poultry meat that has not been processed.

Ultimately, the use of misleading labelling, including information on the country of origin, is governed by the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 and the Food Safety Act 1990. The Food Standards Agency is currently revising its Guidance, and my Department is closely involved with this.

Milk

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to protect the UK milk production sector from European competition. [125225]

Barry Gardiner: If the UK milk production sector is to remain competitive it must become more efficient and market-focused. In England, the Government are helping it to do so through a range of measures, including:

(i) our support for English Farming and Food Partnerships (which is promoting collaboration and co-operation between farmers and between farmers and the rest of the food chain);

(ii) the Food Chain Centre (which has been promoting benchmarking and investigating the scope for efficiencies with supply chains); and

(iii) the Dairy Supply Chain Forum (which aims to increase the efficiency and promote the sustainable development of the dairy supply chain).

Defra has also awarded grants of over £1.3 million under the Agriculture Development Scheme to projects that aim help the dairy sector become more efficient. We understand that a strategic action plan for the dairy industry in Wales has been developed to encourage effective measures that will stimulate innovation and product development.

Rights of Way

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to consult on regulations under sections 54 and 56 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 on the extinguishment of public rights of way at the cut-off date. [124670]

Barry Gardiner: I expect the Department to issue a consultation paper on these regulations by September 2007.

River Thames: Environment Protection

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) Delivery Plan prevents irreversible damage to the SPA and the habitat of the woodlark, nightjar and Dartford warbler. [124445]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* The Government office for the South East continues to work in partnership with Communities and Local Government, Defra, Natural England and the South East England Regional Assembly to develop a strategic approach to the required housing delivery around the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, whilst ensuring that the site is appropriately protected from future impacts in accordance with the habitats directive.

The draft Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan is currently being considered as part of the Examination in Public (EiP) of the South East Regional Spatial Strategy. The assessor appointed to examine this draft Delivery Plan published his report to the EiP Panel on 19 February 2007. This report will be debated further on 22 March 2007 at an EiP session.

Sewers

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what length in miles of unadopted sewers there is in each region of England. [125533]

Ian Pearson: The most recent Ofwat estimates of private, unadopted, pipework outside the property curtilage, in England, by water and sewerage company area, are set out in the following table:

Water and sewerage company	*Length of unadopted sewers (kilometre)*
Anglian	21,000
United Utilities	21,000
Northumbrian	9,000
Severn Trent	29,000
Southern	13,000
South West	5,000
Thames	26,000
Wessex	8,000
Yorkshire	16,000

Single Farm Payments: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex have not received a single farm payment for 2006. [125473]

Barry Gardiner: As of 28 February 2007 a total of 88,842 customers have received either a full or partial 2006 Single Payment Scheme payment, representing 81.5 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population of 109,000.

The total value of 2006 payments is £965.53 million, 62.8 per cent. of the estimated total fund of £1.54 billion.

These figures include 2,577 partial payments (including Euro payments) and 2,298 full payments which were made in the last week, as well as over 3,300 top-up payments which were made to customers who previously received a partial payment.

Detailed analysis of the payments made under the Single Payment Scheme is not yet available.

Sugar Beet: Biofuels

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to help sugar beet farmers diversify their markets to use their crop for fuel production. [125561]

Barry Gardiner: Following the reform of the sugar regime, farmers can grow sugar beet on set-aside land for bioethanol use and can claim the European Union's €45 per hectare Energy Aid payment for sugar beet on non set-aside land.

The Government are promoting the production of bioethanol through a 20p per litre duty rate cut. To further develop the supply of biofuels, a Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation will be introduced to require 5 per cent. of fuel sold in the UK to come from a renewable source by 2010.

We are aware that British Sugar are building a biofuel processing plant in Norfolk that will use sugar beet as one of the feedstocks.

Wood: Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken by his Department to reduce imports of timber from Burma *(a)* to the UK and *(b)* to the EU. [122611]

Barry Gardiner: The UK supports the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) action plan which envisages voluntary partnership agreements with individual countries to promote trade in legally produced timber. Burma is not a FLEGT partner country and its timber exports are therefore not promoted under this scheme. In the UK, the Government maintains a long-standing policy of discouraging British companies from trading with Burma.

TRANSPORT

A50: Road Traffic

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the last five noise level readings were for the A50 Doveridge bypass; and when each was taken. [126099]

Dr. Ladyman: Noise level readings are not routinely taken for trunk roads and none have been taken for the A50 Doveridge bypass.

Departments: Disclosure of Information

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make available to the participants the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2006 between himself, the hon. Member for Richmond Park, Mrs. Eileen Dallaglio and others. [125220]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Following the undertaking that I gave at the meeting on 13 November 2006, copies of the Minutes have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Security

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many current passes to his Department have been allocated to employees of private companies. [126761]

Gillian Merron: The Department has 4,711 valid passes issued to contractors and consultants providing services to its headquarters and agency premises.

Level Crossings: Accidents

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents occurred at railway level crossings in each of the last five years; and how many of those were due to *(a)* signal failure and *(b)* (i) pedestrians and (ii) vehicles on the line. [126469]

Mr. Tom Harris: Statistics on accidents at level crossings and their causes are given in the annual reports on railway safety, now produced by the Office of Rail Regulation and previously by the Health and Safety Executive. Copies are available in the House Library.

The Rail Safety and Standards Board have estimated that 96 per cent. of the risk at level crossings is due to the behaviour of crossing users.

M5: Accidents

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the accident rate is on the stretch of the M5 motorway between each of the junctions from 8 to 11A; what the average accident rate is on each motorway in England; and if he will make a statement. [125679]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 6 March 2007]*: Actual figures for individual stretches of motorway are not normally available. However, the accident rate on the M5 motorway, between each of the junctions from 8 to 11 a, averaged over the period 2003-05, is as follows:

Junction	*Accident rate (accidents per 10^8 vehicle km[1])*
J8-9	8.8
J9-10	5.2
J10-11	8.3
J11-11a	8.1
J8-11a	7.2

[1]100 million vehicle kilometres

The accident rate for each motorway in England, averaged over the period 2003-05, for which figures are available, is as follows:

Motorway	*accidents per 10^8 vehicle km^2)*
1	11.4
2	10.9
3	8.3
4	8.8
5	6.7
6	9.5
10	11.7
11	8.5
18	6.0
20	10.3
23	9.6
25	13.9
26	7.3
27	9.6
40	6.5
42	5.8
43	0.6
48	3.6
49	6.1
50	4.8
53	10.3
54	5.6
55	8.3
56	6.9
57	11.0
58	6.1
60	9.3
61	10.5
62	9.5
65	10.7
66	7.8
67	10.8
69	8.8
180	7.8
181	13.3
271	39.8
602	17.0
606	18.6
621	11.8

These figures have been obtained exceptionally but should not necessarily be used for comparison purposes as each motorway differs in length and usage.

Petrol Stations

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to require details of additives to petrol and diesel by refineries to be displayed to customers at the point of sale at petrol stations. [126123]

Dr. Ladyman: I have no plans to impose such a requirement, since to do so would place a burden on industry without significantly adding to the protection available to consumers.

Fuels can contain a wide range of additives. Information on the composition of these would be unlikely to be comprehensible to motorists and may well be proprietary to the fuel supplier.

It is unlikely that such a requirement would have prevented the recent incident in which fuel was found to be contaminated with silicon, since the contaminant had not been deliberately added to the fuel at any stage and the suppliers were unaware of its presence.

Ports: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects a decision to be announced on the application for the post panamax terminal in the port of Liverpool. [126555]

Dr. Ladyman: A decision on the application for the Seaforth River Terminal Harbour Revision Order will be announced as soon as all the necessary statutory procedures have been completed.

Roads: Noise

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the concreted trunk road network has had a quieter surface installed since July 2000; and which roads with concrete surfaces *(a)* have and *(b)* have not had work begin. [126096]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has a policy of using quieter surfaces as a matter of course whenever a road needs to be resurfaced. Since July 2000 approximately 35 per cent. of the concrete sections of the strategic road network have been surfaced with quieter materials. Tables (A) and (B) indicate concrete sections surfaced and sections not surfaced respectively.

Table A: Concrete sections surfaced with quieter materials

	Scheme
1999-2000	M20 Junctions 3-5
2000-2001	M20 Junctions 9-10
2001-2002	No Schemes Completed
2002-2003	M180 Junction 2 to Beltoft
	A12 Brentwood Bypass Phase 2
	M11 Junction 8 (Stanstead Slip Rd Contract)
	M20 Junction 11 - Smeeth
	M27 Junctions 2-4
	M11 Junctions 7-6 southbound
	M5 Junctions 26-27 Contract 1
2003-2004	A1 Long Bennington (Additional stretch to April 2003 announcement)
	M42 Junctions 2-3a
	M180 Sandtoft - Junction 2
	M11 B1038 (Newport) A11 (M11 Junction 9 Junction 8 Phase 1) (new scheme from October 2001 announcement)
	M1 Junctions 1-2
	M20 Junctions 11a-11
	M20 Junctions 13-11a
	M25 Junctions 26-27
	M5 Junctions 26-27 Contract 2
	M5 Junctions 27 South to Willand (additional stretch to April announcement)
	A12Witham-Kelvedon
2004-2005	M11 Junction 6 (additional stretch to April 2003 announcement)

Table A: Concrete sections surfaced with quieter materials

	Scheme
	A1(M) Junction 1 (South Mimms)
	M4 Junction 10 Slip Roads - phase 1
	A27 Chichester to Havant (phases 1 and 2)
	A1 North Muskham to Carlton on Trent (phases 1 and 2)
	M5 J26-J27 Contract 3
	M69 Junction 2 - M1 Contract 1
2005-2006	A180 Habrough to Stallingborough (new scheme from October 2001announcement)
	M62 Gilberdyke to Newport (Additional stretch to April 2003 announcement)
	A1 North Muskham to Carlton on Trent (phase 3)
	A27 Chichester to Havant (phase 3)
	M20 Junction 3 - A20 West Kingstown
	A34 Peartree to Weston
	A36: M27 roundabout to Circuit Road roundabout (Additional stretch to April 2003 announcement)
2006-2007	A1 Coddington to Bakderton
	M1 1 J9-8 Phase 2 (B1038 Newport-Ugley)
	M6 Junction 12 to Penkridge

Table B: Concrete sections not re-surfaced with quieter materials

Concrete Road Section Description	Concrete Section Length - km
M1 -A1 Link	15.5
M20 Junction 1 / M25 J3	1.1
M20 Junctions 8-9	20.4
M25 Junctions 9-10	7.8
M27 Junctions 5-7	5.7
M60 J1 -2 Concrete Overlay	1.7
A5 Milton Keynes (A422-A508)	6.3
A11: B1172-A47	13.7
A12 Ingateston-Margaretting	4.4
A12 Hatfield Peverel-Witham	5.2
A13: A1306-M25J30	3
A14 Claydon - B1067 Underbridge	3
A30 Honiton-Exeter	16.2
A47 East Dereham: East Dereham - B1135	3.3
A50: Doveridge Bypass	4
A419 / A417 Cirencester and Latton Bypasses	14.2
A1 Coodington to Bakderton phase2	3.0
M42 Junctions 9-10	5.1
M6 Penkridge to junction 13	3.8
M18 Junctions 5-6	2.3
M25 Junctions 10-11	9.2
M25 Junctions 24-25	8.5
M25 Junctions 8-9	7.2
M42 Junctions 3a-4	3.5
M54: A5-A41	9.3
M271 Junctions 1 to A3057	2.8
A11 -Barton Mills	2.8
A12 Contract 11 : Kelvedon Bypass-Eight Ash Green	7.7
A12 Margaretting-Boreham	13.4
A14 B1067 Underbridge - Copdock Interchange	3.3
A14 Copdock Interchange - A12	8

Table B: Concrete sections not re-surfaced with quieter materials

Concrete Road Section Description	Concrete Section Length - km
A19 Billingham Bypass	4.2
A30 Long rock Bypass	1.8
A35 Tolpuddle-Puddletown	7.2
A50 Derby Southern Bypass	0.5
A52 Bottesford Bypass	4.8
A120 Elmstead-Wix Eastbound	3.5
A168 / A19 Thirsk Bypass	8
A249: M2-Iwade	7.9
A483: 65445-Welsh Boundary	3.1
M3 Junctions 8-9	9
M4 Junction 10 slip roads - phase 2	0.5
M11 Junctions 5-6	4.7
M18 Moorelands-Greenland	4.9
M23 Junction 10-9 NB	1
M25 Junctions 27-28	5.6
M26 - J2A to M20 Concrete and EB overlay (MP 14/6 to 15/9)	0.8
M53 Junctions 11-12 (A56-M56)	3.9
M54: A41-A449	12.9
M56 Junction 15 (M53)-A5117	3
A14 A12 Levington	3.7
A14 Elmswell	3.6
A30 Whiddon Down to Okehampton	6.9
A46 Six Hills-Widmerpool	9.5
A47 East Dereham: Wending-East Dereham	4.3
A50 Blythe Bridge to Uttoxeter	12.4
A50: Foston Hatton Hilton Bypass	3.6
A120: A12-Elmstead	4.5
A160: A1077-A180	4.4
A180: Habrough to Grimsby	11.5
A180:M180-Ulceby	8
A303 Ilminster Bypass	8.8

Safety Belts

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries sustained in road crashes where the failure to wear a seat belt was a contributory factor. [124615]

Dr. Ladyman: Statistical data on failure to wear a seatbelt as a contributory factor is not collected. Research reported in the recently published "Second Review of the Government's Road Safety Strategy" and "Road Safety Research Report No. 76: Trends in Fatal Car-occupant Accidents" both published on 26 February 2007, estimates that about a third of fatally injured car occupants were not wearing their seatbelts. For 2005 figures it represents about 565 people, and it is estimated that about 370 people might have survived if they had been properly restrained. A research report giving further details has also been published by TRL limited. These three reports can be downloaded from the following links:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategytargetsperformance/2ndreview/

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/76?version=2

http://www.trl.co.uk/store/report_detail.asp?srid=6160&pid=220

Copies of the reports are also available from the Libraries of the House.

Shipping

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to improve short sea shipping in UK coastal waters. [126476]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department promotes coastal shipping where this makes sense and has provided over £34 million of grant support for water freight projects since 2000.

In 2005, we introduced the new Waterborne Freight Grant scheme to assist shipping companies with their operating costs where there are environmental benefits to be gained from modal shift.

On a day to day basis we look to Sea and Water, the industry-led organisation which has received Department funding of £120,000 per annum since its formation in 2003, to take the lead in promoting coastal shipping services.

Shipping: EC Action

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the European Commission Green Paper on maritime transport policy. [126402]

Dr. Ladyman: The UK national consultation ended on 28 February 2007 and in total the Department has received 37 written responses to the consultation from interested parties.

Many of these are umbrella responses from trade associations and other membership bodies representing a wide range of stakeholders.

Southern: Rolling Stock

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made in securing the early release by Southern of the class 319 trains for use on the Thameslink service; and if he will make a statement. [125994]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport is continuing to work with First Capital Connect and other industry partners to try to find a solution which would enable Southern to release the remaining 12 of its dual-voltage Class 319 units in advance of the end of its franchise in December 2009.

Transport: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Disability Discrimination (Transport Vehicles) Regulations 2005 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126642]

Gillian Merron: The Disability Discrimination (Transport Vehicles) Regulations 2005 were accompanied by a full regulatory impact assessment, including one-off and recurring costs to business. A copy was placed in the House Library.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and the Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2005 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126645]

Dr. Ladyman: The total costs to industry estimated in the final regulatory impact assessment (RIA) were:

(a) for the first year after the proposals came into force, a one-off cost of £25 million—£53 million (incurred as a result of implementation of new security requirements following the events of 9/11);

Additionally, £0.05 million or less incurred as a result of further safety measures.

(b) £80 million (in present value terms) incurred over the remaining nine years (primarily relating to approval of bulk containers and changes to classification, packaging and vehicle marking in relation to class 7 radioactive materials as required by the EC directives.

The cost to regulators was absorbed in the normal running costs of the Department.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing Directive 2002/15/EC, on the working time of persons performing mobile and road transport activities to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126648]

Dr. Ladyman: The European Road Transport Working Time Directive 2002/15/EC is intended to help prevent "mobile workers" (mainly drivers and crew of HGVs, buses and coaches) from being forced to work excessively long hours. The directive also helps promote road safety and to ensure fair competition across Europe (by delivering a "level playing field" on working time).

The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) for the Road Transport (Working Time) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/639), which implemented directive 2002/15/EC in Great Britain, estimated a one-off cost to industry of £25 to £50 million and a recurring net cost of £280 to £565 million per annum. The RIA did not estimate a one-off cost for regulators but estimated recurring enforcement costs of £120,000-£217,000 per annum. Copies of the RIA are available in the Libraries of the House, but early indications suggest that the compliance cost to industry may have been overestimated.

The Government have begun a review of the UK's implementation of the directive which will look at, among other things, the administrative burden placed on business by the implementing regulations.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126656]

Dr. Ladyman: The total costs to industry estimated in the final regulatory impact assessment (RIA) were:

(a) a one-off cost of £47 million incurred in the first year after the proposals came into force (primarily related to the increased scope of driver training to drivers working in petroleum transport sector);

(b) a further £293 million (in present value terms using a discount rate of 3.5 per cent.) incurred over the remaining nine years.

The cost to regulators was absorbed in the normal running costs of the Department.

WALES

Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the effect on lottery funding for projects in Wales of the allocation of funding from the Big Lottery Fund to projects being developed for the 2012 Olympics. [126306]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on matters affecting Wales.

The Lottery has brought over £0.9 billion of awards to good causes in Wales since 1994. I, along with Cabinet colleagues and Assembly Ministers, am working to minimise the impact of the Olympics on Lottery funding for good causes in Wales.

I am determined, also, that Wales will make the most of the opportunities presented by the Games in terms of business opportunities, tourism, investment and participation in sport.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Liaison Committee

21. **Pete Wishart:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will review the composition of the Liaison Committee. [126354]

Mr. Straw: I have no plans to propose to the House any changes to the principles underlying the composition of the Liaison Committee. These are that the Committee should comprise the chairmen of the other select committees of the House, with—at present—a senior former select committee chairman added to the Committee who serves as its chairman.

Citizenship Education

24. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Leader of the House what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on how public understanding of the workings and processes of Parliament can be improved by citizenship education in schools. [126357]

Mr. Straw: I have not held specific discussions on this issue.

Communications Allowance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House what the estimated level of the new communications allowance is; and whether the incidental expenses provision allowance will be changed once the new communications allowance has been introduced. [125710]

Mr. Straw: The Members Estimate Committee is currently considering this and is expected to make proposals imminently, which will be published in a report from the Committee.

Members' Constituency Work

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House how much hon. Members were allowed to spend on publicity, literature and communications to constituents in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2006-07. [125712]

Mr. Straw: Communications to constituents is ordinarily charged by hon. Members to their parliamentary allowances. Members can spend any amount on such items up to the relevant annual limit, provided the expenditure conforms to the rules and guidance published by the Department of Finance and Administration in the Green Book.

In 1996-97 the then office costs allowance (OCA) was set at £47,568, while the 2006-07 incidental expenses provision (IEP) is £20,440. The OCA also covered staffing costs as well as general office costs, whereas in 2006-07 there is a separate staffing allowance in addition to the IEP.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parking Spaces

20. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many drivers have parking spaces at the Palace of Westminster allocated to them by the House authorities. [126353]

Nick Harvey: There are 32 parking spaces allocated by the House of Commons authorities to drivers at the Palace of Westminster.

Lady Thatcher Statue

22. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many representations he has received about the statue of Lady Thatcher in Members' Lobby. [126355]

Nick Harvey: The Advisory Committee on Works of Art has received two representations about the statue of Lady Thatcher in Members' Lobby. I am not aware of any other representations to the Commission.

Hospitality: Dining Rooms

23. **John Mann:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the Commission has made of the cost to the public purse of providing hospitality via the Commons dining rooms. [126356]

Nick Harvey: After inclusion of purchase costs and the cost of staff directly engaged by the Refreshment Department in the booking and delivery of banqueting services, a net profit of over £960,000 was made from hospitality and other events held in the House of Commons private dining rooms in 2005-06.

This figure does not include overheads such as accommodation, procurement, utilities, staff training or pension costs which are not calculated separately.

House of Commons: St. George's Day

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what plans the House authorities have to celebrate St. George's Day. [125702]

Nick Harvey: Continuing its theme of celebrating the British Patron Saints' Days, the Refreshment Department will celebrate St. George's Day on 23 April by offering special dishes throughout its cafeterias and in the Members' and Strangers' dining rooms. Menus will showcase prime English meats, poultry, vegetables, cheeses and other seasonal produce, sourced by the Department's wholesalers from farmers and small producers throughout the English regions. Also, the Union flag will be flown from Victoria Tower on St. George's Day.

Portcullis House: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the health and safety report into the access to the flagpole on Portcullis House. [122443]

Nick Harvey: A copy of the health and safety report will be placed in the Library.

Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the Commission spent on *(a)* acquisitions of office space, *(b)* refurbishment and *(c)* maintenance on the House of Commons estate in each year since 1990. [120445]

Nick Harvey: Since 1990 the main acquisition of office accommodation has been the construction of Portcullis House over a number of financial years at a capital cost of £234 million. Leasehold space was taken on at 7 Millbank during the 1990s; the annual rental is currently £4.7 million. More recently, additional leasehold space has been taken on a temporary basis at 4 Millbank at an annual rental of £0.7 million to provide decant space for use while core parts of the estate are refurbished. Major office refurbishments undertaken in the period have included:

1 Parliament Street and Derby Gate
Norman Shaw North
Norman Shaw South
Commons Court Offices
St. Stephen's Tower offices

Care of the Palace of Westminster and the parliamentary outbuildings was transferred to Parliament by the Parliamentary Corporate Bodies Act in April 1992. Over the years the interpretation of maintenance and building activity, as well as the accounting regime used to record expenditure, has changed, making it difficult to give figures on a consistent basis. The published accounts show the following costs for accommodation services:

	£ million
1992-93	21.9
1993-94	25.9
1994-95	22.1
1995-96	33.2
1996-97	20.9
1997-98	22.1
1998-99	23.3
1999-2000	27.2
2000-01	23.8
2001-02	35.8
2002-03	36.0
2003-04	24.3
2004-05	25.7
2005-06	24.7

For 2003-04 onwards, a more detailed breakdown is available as follows:

			£ million
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Current expenditure			
Office refurbishment	0.6	0.6	1.7
Office maintenance	2.1	2.1	2.4
Other accommodation costs including security	21.6	23.0	20.6
Total	24.3	25.7	24.7
Capital expenditure			
Office furniture	0.1	0.1	0.1

Cost trends can be influenced by major projects. For example, the increase in office refurbishment expenditure in 2005-06 reflects the initiation of the Press Gallery refurbishment.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children: Day Care

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of child care *(a)* places and *(b)* providers (i) opened and (ii) closed in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by (A) the private, voluntary and independent sector and (B) the state sector. [125622]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 6 March 2007]:* The information requested about child care places and providers broken down by sector is not available.

The following tables provide information for all types of day care provider.

Table 1: Number and percentage of child care providers that have opened and closed 2004-06, England

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		March to December 2006	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Opened	21,200	22.9	18,500	20.1	16,500	17.3	12,100	12.6
Childminders	16,300	22.5	13,100	18.7	12,000	16.8	8,800	12.3
Full day care	2,500	22.7	2,800	23.2	2,300	17.5	1,700	12.4
Out of school	2,400	26.0	2,600	26.8	2,300	21.9	1,700	15.8
Closed	14,400	15.5	19,200	20.9	13,000	13.7	11,300	11.8
Childminders	12,100	16.7	15,300	21.8	10,300	14.4	8,800	12.3
Full day care	1,100	10.0	1,800	14.9	1,300	9.9	1,100	8.0
Out of school	1,200	13.0	2,200	22.7	1,500	14.3	1,400	13.0

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
Source:
Ofsted.

Table 2: Number and percentage of child care places opened and closed 2004-06, England

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		March to December 2006	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Opened	238,600	21.6	254,100	21.6	214,800	17.1	157,400	12.2
Childminders	62,800	19.6	53,000	16.8	48,800	15.1	37,000	11.4
Full day care	98,600	21.6	117,600	22.7	90,900	16.1	68,400	11.5
Out of school	77,200	23.6	83,500	24.5	75,200	20.5	52,000	14.0
Closed	128,400	11.6	200,800	17.1	144,600	11.5	128,100	9.9
Childminders	50,400	15.8	63,000	19.9	44,800	13.9	37,900	11.7
Full day care	38,500	8.4	65,600	12.7	48,700	8.6	41,800	7.0
Out of school	39,500	12.1	72,200	21.2	51,100	13.9	48,500	13.1
Net steady state changes[1]	+24,600	2.2	+19,200	1.6	+8,900	0.7	+7,700	0.6
Childminders	+6,400	2.0	+6,300	2.0	+2,100	0.7	+2,200	0.7
Full day care	+14,600	3.2	+9,600	1.9	+5,600	1.0	+4,300	0.7
Out of school	+3,600	1.1	+3,300	1.0	+1,200	0.3	+1,100	0.3
Net change	+134,900	12.2	+72,600	6.2	+79,100	6.3	+36,900	2.9

[1] The net steady state refers to registered providers whose registration status has not changed, but whose number of places has fluctuated over the period in question.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
Source:
Ofsted.

The Department is unable to provide accurate details of closure rates for child care places and providers prior to 2003.

Since March 2003 data on closure rates have been available from Ofsted. Their data on closures include registered places in settings which are transferring ownership, and in settings which move from one Ofsted category to another, not just in those which are ceasing trading.

Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, December 2006", which is available on their website, www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many childcare places for children under five were available in Warrington in each year since 1997. [125796]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 6 March 2007]:* The available information on the number of registered child care places for children under eight in Warrington local authority area is shown in the tables. The latest figures on registered child care provider and places are available on the following website:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/

Table 1: Number[1, 2] *of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care, Warrington, position at 31 March each year, 2003-06*

Type of care	2003	2004	2005	2006
Full day care	2,100	2,700	2,700	2,800
Sessional day care	1,100	900	800	900
Child minders	1,900	1,800	1,600	1,700
Out-of-school day care	2,200	2,600	2,700	3,000
Crèche day care	200	200	300	300

[1] Rounded to the nearest 100 places.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted.

Table 2: Number[1, 2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider, Warrington, position at 31 March each year, 1990-2002

Type of provider	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Day nurseries	—	1,000	1,300	1,600	—	—
Playgroups and pre-schools	—	—	1,400	1,300	1,100	—
Child minders	—	—	2,700	2,400	1,300	—
Out-of-school clubs	—	—	660	900	990	—
Holiday schemes[3]	—	—	1,200	1,300	5,900	—

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 places.
[2] Data
Source:
Children's Day Care Facilities Survey. [3] From 1999, places were counted once for each school holiday. Before 1999, places were counted once each year.
Note: — = Not available.

Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether it is the policy of his Department that the Key Stage 3 curriculum should be less knowledge based and more skills based. [124617]

Jim Knight: Our policy is that the Key Stage 3 curriculum should ensure that young people secure the key discipline concepts, skills and knowledge to gain an understanding of the subjects they have studied. It should also equip young people with the wider personal, learning and thinking skills needed for everyday life.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) for which future projects his Department is considering a private finance initiative deal; what the estimated life time value is of each potential contract; and what period each will cover; [125186]

(2) what percentage of his Department's budget was taken up by private finance initiative commitments in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [125194]

(3) what percentage of his Department's budget will be taken up by private finance initiative commitments in each of the next 10 years, assuming that the budget grows in line with the Treasury's estimates for gross domestic product over the period; and if he will make a statement. [125195]

Jim Knight: PFI credits relate solely to schools capital funding. Future PFI credits available to the Department as part of its capital baseline are largely assigned to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. PFI contracts usually cover a 25 to 30 year period. After this, the buildings will normally transfer to the local authority which is the signatory to the contract. Partnerships for Schools, our delivery partner for BSF, is working with each local authority which has joined the programme to establish which school projects are suitable for investment through PFI. This is decided on value for money grounds and is usually for those projects where the school is to be largely rebuilt, rather than refurbished.

Percentage budget figures for PFI credits over the last 10 years to 2006-07, and planned for the years 2007-08 to 2010-11, are set out in the following table. The Department has no plans beyond the next spending review period ending 2010-11. The PFI percentage figure is established by dividing PFI credits by the total schools capital funding baseline, including PFI credits.

	Percentage
1997-98	0
1998-99	12
1999-2000	25
2000-01	17
2001-02	19
2002-03	26
2003-04	20
2004-05	22
2005-06	22
2006-07	22
2007-08	20
2008-09	20
2009-10	19
2010-11	16

The changes in the PFI percentage reflect, from year to year, the different rates at which PFI credits and other allocations have increased.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Lancashire pupils were permanently excluded from *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school in each of the last 10 years. [125244]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Maintained primary and secondary schools, number of permanent exclusions[1, 2], position in January each year

	Lancashire local authority area[3]				Lancashire local authority area[4]			
	Primary		Secondary		Primary		Secondary	
	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]
1995/96	45	0.03	303	0.35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1996/97	42	0.03	353	0.40	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997/98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	43	0.04	240	0.33
1998/99	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	32	0.03	209	0.29
1999/2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19	0.02	144	0.19

Maintained primary and secondary schools, number of permanent exclusions[1, 2], position in January each year

	Lancashire local authority area[3]				Lancashire local authority area[4]			
	Primary		Secondary		Primary		Secondary	
	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]
2000/01	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	0.03	207	0.28
2001/02	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39	0.04	240	0.32
2002/03	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	0.03	302	0.40
2003/04	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36	0.04	282	0.37
2004/05	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	0.03	238	0.31

	Blackburn with Darwen local authority area[4]				Blackpool local authority area[4]			
	Primary		Secondary		Primary		Secondary	
	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[5]
1995/96	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1996/97	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997/98	6	0.04	49	0.51	[6]	[6]	36	0.52
1998/99	[6]	[6]	23	0.24	[6]	[6]	18	0.25
1999/2000	[6]	[6]	38	0.40	[6]	[6]	17	0.23
2000/01	[6]	[6]	45	0.47	[6]	[6]	23	0.29
2001/02	7	0.05	31	0.33	6	0.05	27	0.33
2002/03	8	0.05	38	0.40	11	0.09	30	0.35
2003/04	[6]	[6]	31	0.32	[6]	[6]	46	0.53
2004/05	6	0.04	24	0.25	[6]	[6]	56	0.64

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] As reported by LAs as part of the data checking process.
[3] Before local government reorganisation.
[4] After local government reorganisation.
[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) pupils in primary and secondary schools in January each year
[6] Less than 5 or a rate based on less than 5.
Source:
Schools Census.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many exclusions there were in each local education authority in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [124633]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in English schools receive free fruit on a daily basis; what the annual cost is of this scheme; what estimate he has made of the cost of extending this scheme to all primary aged school children; and if he will make a statement. [125083]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently 1,961,316 children participating in the school fruit and vegetable scheme in 16,505 schools. The cost is £36.2 million for produces and delivery and £0.5 million for administration in the current 2006-07 financial year. We have not made a detailed estimate of the cost of extending the scheme to all primary aged school children.

Schools: Calderdale

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assistance has been *(a)* requested by and *(b)* given to (i) the local education authority in Calderdale to support schools in special measures and (ii) schools in special measures. [124636]

Jim Knight: A range of support is available to local authorities to help them to improve their schools, including guidance from the Department on schools causing concern, central funding from a variety of sources, a number of intervention and capacity building programmes and a network of school improvement delivery agencies some of whose work includes the provision of teaching materials and consultancy support. Every local authority has been allocated a share of an additional £30 million, over the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years, to support their school improvement work. Calderdale's share of this was £138,600.

Additional funding is also available from the Department's interventions budget, to support failing and underperforming schools. Calderdale local authority was allocated £170,000 from the interventions budget in 2003-04, £184,500 in 2004-05 and £75,000 in 2005-06. This funding included support for the North Halifax Federation, including £67,000 for a school that was in special measures to support its transition to closure and successful merger with another school.

Schools: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to support school sport in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [125528]

Jim Knight: As part of the national School Sport Strategy, all schools in Eastbourne are part of the Hailsham School Sport Partnership (a family of schools which work together to increase participation in PE and school sport). The partnership has received over £1 million in the past three years to support its work in raising participation levels, linking schools to local sports clubs, and increasing the number of pupils involved in sports volunteering. It has seen the percentage of pupils participating in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week rise from 80 per cent. in 2003 to 92 per cent. in 2006.

A further two School Sport Partnerships cover the rest of the schools in East Sussex. The total investment in these three partnerships has been over £3 million since 2003/04. The partnerships also benefit from extra funding for: Competition Managers in the area—raising the quality and quantity of school competition; a Community Sports Coach—bringing a sports specialist into schools; and school swimming—helping weak swimmers become more confident in the water before they finish primary school.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex provide fruit for their pupils each day. [125530]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

There are 149 schools in East Sussex, including 16 schools in Eastbourne, that participate in the school fruit and vegetable scheme.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the *(a)* risks and *(b)* consequences of doing nothing to the curriculum as part of the review of the secondary curriculum. [122807]

Jim Knight: If we do nothing to the secondary curriculum schools will not have the flexibility and space for stretching students and helping those who have fallen below the expected level in English and mathematics. We risk therefore being unable to increase the number of students who reach the age of 14 at a level which enables them to take full advantage of the increased choices we are making available in the 14-19 phase. The consequence of that will be that some young people become disengaged from learning and unable to meet their aspirations. Those young people are more likely to drop out of education and training post 16 and are less likely to succeed in later life.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1025W, on secondary education: curriculum, whether the supporting materials produced to accompany the secondary curriculum review are intended to accompany the revised National Curriculum as non-statutory guidance; whether the supporting materials will be sent to schools; and on what legal basis these materials will be sent to schools. [124856]

Jim Knight: Supporting materials produced to accompany the secondary curriculum review are intended as guidance only and therefore non-statutory. They will available to schools via the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority website.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1025W, on secondary education: curriculum, when the Director of Curriculum at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority visited South Africa; and how much the visit cost. [124858]

Jim Knight: The Director of Curriculum was in South Africa from 16 February to 21 February 2007. The event was paid for by the Western Cape Education Department.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1025W, on secondary education: curriculum, how many consultation documents have been *(a)* requested and *(b)* provided by the Qualifications Curriculum Authority in (i) printed format and (ii) other formats. [124912]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has so far received three requests to provide consultation documents in printed format. These have been provided. No requests have been received to provide the consultation documents in other formats.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1025W, on secondary education: curriculum, what steps the Qualifications Curriculum Authority has taken to ensure that parents respond to the secondary curriculum review. [124913]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has a number of regional events planned with parents and students. It will use these to encourage parents to respond to the consultation on the secondary curriculum review. The widespread media coverage generated by the consultation launch, will mean that many parents are already aware that the consultation is taking place.

Sure Start Programme

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many grants were awarded to organisations for the purpose of meeting the capital costs of acquiring property for proposed new Sure Start centres; and what the value was of those grants. [126276]

Beverley Hughes: The General Sure Start Grant (GSSG) provided local authorities with a total of £813 million capital for the period 2006-08. The funding can be used for the developing of Sure Start children's centres, including acquiring, refurbishing, or building new property. The Department does not collect specific data on capital spent acquiring property for the purpose of developing children's centres.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures are *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned to recover Sure Start grants from organisations that have failed to open child care centres as planned; and if he will make a statement. [126403]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are responsible for how they use funding allocated to them through the General Sure Start Grant (GSSG) for the delivery of children's services. They have the freedom to use this funding to develop a range of provision including creating Sure Start Children's Centres, supporting the local child care market and developing extended schools services, in line with Government guidance. This will often involve using the local private, community or voluntary organisations to provide these services. If these organisations fail to deliver these services as planned, it is the responsibility of local authorities to recover this funding.

LAs have been asked to notify and consult with DfES about any proposal to sell or otherwise dispose of, or change the use of, buildings or other tangible assets which have been paid or partly paid for by a DfES capital grant. Notification should be at least three months before any planned disposal is intended to take place, where the market value exceeds £2,500.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Damian Green: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has given returning officers on removing from the Electoral Register those not entitled to vote; and if he will make a statement. [125650]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the guidance manuals it issued to electoral registration officers in England, Scotland and Wales in 2005 and 2006 included advice on eligibility for remaining on the electoral register. In July 2006, the Commission issued a circular to electoral registration officers on the extension by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 of the scope of their duties in relation to maintaining the electoral register, including removing those who are not eligible to be on it. I have arranged for a copy of this circular to be placed in the Library. The Commission has also provided further advice on this issue at its training and briefing seminars to support electoral administrators at the May 2007 elections.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Absent Voting

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have applied for a postal vote in each Northern Ireland constituency for the forthcoming election to the Assembly; and how many applied for such a facility in *(a)* the last general election and *(b)* previous Assembly election. [123491]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the breakdown by constituency of how many people have been issued with postal ballot papers. Figures for the number of postal ballot papers applied for are not available.

Postal ballot papers issued

Constituency	*NI Assembly election 2003*	*Westminster parliamentary election 2005*	*NI Assembly election 2007*[1]
Belfast East	446	584	426
Belfast North	503	570	445
Belfast South	502	681	441
Belfast West	446	743	811
East Antrim	397	622	429
East Londonderry	1,288	1,647	988
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	3,600	4,559	3,375
Foyle	1,091	2,515	1,308
Lagan Valley	798	1,087	784
Mid Ulster	2,174	2,891	2,183
Newry and Armagh	1,416	1,873	1,226
North Antrim	893	1,444	971
North Down	496	727	393
South Antrim	480	711	524
South Down	1,462	2,041	1,318
Strangford	632	861	540
Upper Bann	1,015	1,162	803
West Tyrone	2,330	2,962	2,345
Total	19,969	27,680	19,310

[1] Does not include postal votes issued after the application deadline of 27 February 2007 due to unforeseen illness.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the account taken of costs of determining whether to seek to obtain an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) in Northern Ireland; and what representations he has received from public authorities on this matter since the introduction of ASBOs in Northern Ireland. [126962]

Mr. Hanson: It is entirely the decision of the relevant authorities whether or not to apply for an antisocial behaviour order and this includes considering any issue relating to the cost. Any cost associated with seeking an antisocial behaviour order must be set against the cost of allowing the antisocial behaviour to continue unchallenged.

The NIO has no record of any representations from public authorities on this matter other than in response to the public consultation on the antisocial behaviour order proposals in 2004.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects bowel screening to be available in the Province; and if he will make a statement. [119304]

Paul Goggins: My Department is working with the health service to enhance the capacity of the symptomatic service, with the aim of introducing bowel cancer screening in 2009.

Before a full programme can be implemented in Northern Ireland, detailed planning is required in order that the introduction of bowel screening does not adversely impact on services for those patients with symptomatic disease. In addition, infrastructure development and capacity building is required so that the necessary resources, people and skills are in place to ensure a quality service. My Department is currently working with the relevant health professionals to address these issues and thereby enhance the capacity of the symptomatic service.

Demonstrations: Londonderry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what notification was given by the organisers of the parade that took place in Londonderry on Sunday 28 January 2007 to commemorate the events that took place there in January 1972. [117956]

Paul Goggins: An 11/1 Notification form was submitted to Strand Road PSNI station on 22 November 2006.

Departmental Equipment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh, *Official Report*, column 1276W, on departmental equipment, whether the computers stolen from his Department held information about the names and addresses of government employees and other Crown servants in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the security implications of the thefts. [119404]

Paul Goggins: Names and addresses were not held on any of the departmental computers that were stolen in the past nine years. While all these losses were regrettable, I am satisfied that the security of individuals or the Department has not been compromised.

Departments: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what strategy he has put in place for *(a)* the use of renewable energy and *(b)* meeting energy targets in his Department's buildings; and if he will make a statement. [125402]

Mr. Hanson: Government Departments in Northern Ireland have been purchasing electricity from renewable sources since 2001. This approach is being continued in the general requirement for Departments to source at least 10 per cent. of their electricity requirements from renewable sources by March 2008.

To encourage the installation of renewable energy technologies by Government Departments, some £6.5 million has been made available in 2006-07 and 2007-08 under the Environment and Renewable Energy Fund which was launched a year ago.

Beyond this period, this work will be carried forward under the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy which requires the Government estate to be carbon neutral by 2015. From 31 March 2007 all Departments and district councils will be under a statutory duty to act in the way best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Northern Ireland.

With regard to targets, Departments (and other public bodies) have been made aware of the objectives contained in the Government White Paper published in 2003 entitled "Our Energy Future—Creating a Low Carbon Economy", and repeated in the 2006 Climate Change Programme, "Tomorrow's Climate, Today's Challenge". All Departments are required to monitor their energy use and provide annual returns of energy consumption and cost in respect of all buildings which they occupy.

Educational Psychology

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many whole-time equivalent educational psychologists are employed by each education and library board in the Province. [119152]

Maria Eagle: The education and library boards employ the following numbers of whole-time equivalent educational psychologists:

Education and library board	*Number*
Belfast	26.64
North Eastern	21.98
Western	24.60
Southern	28.98
South Eastern	25.90

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils are being seen by educational psychologists in each education and library board area. [119154]

Maria Eagle: Within the education and library boards educational psychologists are currently seeing the following numbers of pupils.

Education and library board	*Number*
Belfast	8,450
North Eastern	7,354
Western	10,379
Southern	7,200
South Eastern	7,470

Electoral Register

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are registered to vote in each Northern Ireland constituency for the forthcoming election to the Assembly; and how many were registered for *(a)* the last general election and *(b)* previous Assembly election. [123493]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the breakdown by constituency of how many people are or

were eligible to vote at the 2003 Assembly election, the 2005 parliamentary election and the 2007 Assembly election. The 2007 Assembly election figure is lower than the total possible electorate (i.e. total number registered to vote) because it does not include those who are registered but who are not eligible to vote at this election (such as those who have not turned 18). The 2005 parliamentary figure includes those whose names were 'carried forward' from the previous register.

Eligible electorate

Constituency	*NI Assembly election 2003*	*Westminster parliamentary election 2005*	*NI Assembly election 2007*
Belfast East	51,937	52,899	49,757
Belfast North	51,353	52,535	49,372
Belfast South	50,707	52,218	48,923
Belfast West	50,861	53,536	50,792
East Antrim	55,473	57,966	56,666
East Londonderry	56,203	58,461	56,104
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	64,336	66,415	65,826
Foyle	65,303	68,758	64,889
Lagan Valley	67,910	70,238	70,101
Mid Ulster	60,095	62,088	61,223
Newry and Armagh	68,731	71,771	70,823
North Antrim	70,489	73,938	72,814
North Down	57,422	59,358	57,525
South Antrim	63,640	66,580	65,654
South Down	70,149	73,175	71,704
Strangford	66,308	68,570	66,648
Upper Bann	68,814	71,645	70,716
West Tyrone	57,795	59,842	58,367
Total	1,097,526	1,139,993	1,107,904

Health Services

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what role the proposed Community Commissioning Associations (CCAs) will have in the new health structures; how membership of CCAs will be determined; and what consultation has been undertaken on this proposal. [123839]

Paul Goggins: The Review of Public Administration (RPA) provides for local commissioning arrangements to be developed at a level below local commissioning groups.

To give effect to that ministerial commitment my officials have been consulting with relevant stakeholders regarding who best to secure the involvement of clinicians and others in local integrated primary care-based commissioning. Uniquely in Northern Ireland, this will embrace social care as well as health services. The intention is to place responsibility for the commissioning of safe, effective and responsive services with local physicians and other health and social care professionals. Active engagement with service users and carers will also be a key feature of the new arrangements. The aim is to secure improved services which are more sensitive to the needs of individuals.

Final decisions regarding the way forward have, however, yet to be taken.

Hospitals: Parking

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1719W, on hospitals: parking, what percentage of revenue raised from parking charges is available to health trusts to spend on frontline services; and what criteria are used when determining how such resources are spent. [126945]

Paul Goggins: Where a health and social services trust charges for car parking at a hospital under an income generation scheme, all of the revenue raised is available for use as decided by the trust to enhance and improve patient care. Such resources are therefore spent alongside that raised through the normal commissioning process and the trust will decide to which medical specialty they should be allocated.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1719, on hospitals: parking charges, for what reason the private finance initiative operator at the Royal Group of Hospitals is unable to report income from car parking charges. [126964]

Paul Goggins: The private finance operator of the car park at the Royal Group of hospitals, car park services, bears all the costs of operating the car park and accrues all profits in return. The amount of revenue raised is therefore not included in the financial records of the Royal Group of hospitals HSS trust. The trust has written to the operator requesting information on revenue raised. I will write to the hon. Lady as soon as the information has been received and place a copy in the Library.

Junior Doctors: Working Hours

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to limit the working hours of junior doctors in the Province; and what restrictions there are on the maximum periods of time for which junior doctors can work without a break. [119147]

Paul Goggins: In 1991 my Department introduced a package of measures known as the New Deal designed to reduce junior doctor's hours. In addition, the European Working Time Directive, introduced in 2004, set further limits on hours of work.

My Department has established an advisory group to assist Health and Social Services employers in improving their compliance with the hours of work

and rest requirements for junior doctors. The European Working Time Directive sets out a number of different rules on rest requirements for junior doctors including for example a maximum period of six hours work after which a minimum rest period of 20 minutes should be provided.

Knockbracken Health Care Park: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are to reduce the number of acute mental health in-patient beds at Knockbracken Health Care Park. [119303]

Paul Goggins: The Eastern Health and Social Services Board is finalising plans to restructure acute mental health beds in the Eastern Board area, which includes Knockbracken Healthcare Park. These plans will be subject to full public consultation.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consultation with *(a)* patients, *(b)* carers and *(c)* health professionals has been conducted into proposals to reduce the number of acute mental health in-patient beds at Knockbracken Health Care Park. [119308]

Paul Goggins: The Eastern Health and Social Services Board conducted an audit of acute psychiatric in-patient care in 2003-04. Users and carers were involved throughout. In addition, the board sponsored users and carers travelling to England to examine alternative services to in-patient care.

Macular Degeneration

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what provision is available in the Province for treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration; and whether pegaptanib sodium injections may be used within the NHS in Northern Ireland for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration. [119148]

Paul Goggins: Specialised treatments are available for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration, including photodynamic therapy, which is provided by ophthalmologists at the Royal Victoria hospital, Belfast.

It is for health and social services boards, as commissioners of services, to prioritise how funding is used, taking into account local circumstances, the strategic objectives established for the HPSS and demands and pressures generally for access to a wide range of new effective drug therapies. None of the boards currently funds the use of pegaptanib sodium injections.

In determining the priorities for funding, we would expect boards to take account of the available evidence of the clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently assessing the clinical and cost-effectiveness of pegaptanib, and the Institute's final guidance is expected in October 2007.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety provides funding to treat wet age-related macular degeneration sufferers with a licensed anti-vascular endothelial growth factor, when such treatment is recommended by an ophthalmologist, from now until the publication of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines later in 2007. [126318]

Paul Goggins: The Department has allocated an additional £24 million to health and social services boards in 2006-07 and 2007-08 for specialist hospital drugs. It is for the health and social services boards, as commissioners of services, to prioritise how funding is used, taking into account local circumstances, the strategic objectives established for the HPSS and demands and pressures generally for access to a wide range of new effective drug therapies.

In determining their priorities for funding, we would expect boards to take account of the available evidence of the clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently assessing the clinical and cost effectiveness of pegaptanib and ranibizumab, and the Institute's final guidance is expected in September 2007.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans are in place to treat those with wet age-related macular degeneration in Northern Ireland with new treatments which have recently become available. [126319]

Paul Goggins: It is for the health and social services boards to plan and commission services for the people in their areas. Specialised treatments are available for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration, including photodynamic therapy, which is provided by ophthalmologists at the Royal Victoria hospital, Belfast.

Two treatments for wet AMD, pegaptanib and ranibizumab, are currently being appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Institute is expected to publish its guidance in September 2007. When the appraisal guidance is published, the Department will consider the applicability of the NICE guidance to the health and personal social services.

Mental Health Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are to restructure acute mental health beds within the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area. [119310]

Paul Goggins: The Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability recommended that acute in-patient services should be provided as part of an integrated model of crisis services with locally accessible units, utilising where possible the facilities of

general hospitals. The Eastern Health and Social Services Board is in the process of finalising plans to restructure acute mental health beds in the Eastern Board area. These plans will be subject to full public consultation.

NHS: Negligence

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many clinical negligence cases are pending in each health trust in the Province; how many negligence cases have been made against each health trust in the Province in each of the last 10 years; how many were upheld; and what the total estimated cost incurred as a result of clinical negligence in the Province was in each of the last 10 years, broken down by health trust. [119149]

Paul Goggins: Information for the last five years (from 2001-02 to 2005-06) has already been placed in the Library. Information is not available prior to 2001-02 and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

The information regarding the total estimated cost incurred as a result of clinical negligence in the Province in each of the last 10 years broken down by health trust, is not currently held centrally in that format and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available and place a copy in the Library.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is of the funding required to cover clinical negligence costs in the Province in 2007-08. [119150]

Paul Goggins: £11 million.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Catholicism

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the 30 per cent. target for Roman Catholic representation in the Police Service of Northern Ireland envisaged under the Patten recommendations to be achieved. [117955]

Paul Goggins: Annex B of the St. Andrews Agreement makes it clear that the 50:50 provisions will lapse when the target for Catholic officers has been achieved. The Government's target is to increase Catholic representation in the PSNI regulars to 30 per cent. by 2010-11.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers are serving in the Police Service of Northern Ireland, broken down by ethnic origin. [119312]

Paul Goggins: I am advised that as at 1 February 2007 there are 7,557 regular officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Their ethnic background can be broken down as follows:

	Number
White	7,326
Pakistani	1
Black Caribbean	1
Black Other	1
Chinese	5
Indian	1
Mixed Ethnic	5
Other	9
Not stated	208

The PSNI have a number of positive outreach campaigns aimed at recruiting people from ethnic minorities, including the translation of advertisement and literature into four different languages.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff working for the Police Service of Northern Ireland are wholly employed on work connected with inquiries established by (i) the Government and (ii) the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. [125661]

Paul Goggins: Crime Support Department has a number of staff wholly employed undertaking work related to public inquiries set up by Government.

The number of PSNI officers and civilian staff in these areas are as follows:

	Number
Police officers	4
Civilian staff	60.5

The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland does not establish inquiries. However, PSNI's Historic Enquiries Team is conducting investigations into issues raised by the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland in their recent Operation Ballast report. No HET staff are wholly employed on work relating to investigations carried out by the police ombudsman.

Respite Care

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to increase respite care provision in Northern Ireland. [126958]

Paul Goggins: In 2007-08 the Government will invest an additional £11.5 million in community care services designed to help vulnerable people to live independent lives. Respite care is an important and integral component of these services and I expect to see substantial improvements in terms of access and quality.

Thalidomide

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to assist thalidomide victims in the Province. [119155]

Paul Goggins: There is no specific Programme of Care for thalidomide victims. Anyone leaving acute care as a result of thalidomide is treated under the Physical Disability Programme of Care in their respective boards and trusts.

Tomography

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients in each health trust area received *(a)* an ultrasound scan, *(b)* an X-ray and *(c)* a CT scan in each of the last five years; and how many patients are waiting to have (i) an ultrasound scan, (ii) an X-ray and (iii) a CT scan performed in each health trust in the Province. [119151]

Paul Goggins: The number of patients in each health trust area who received *(a)* an ultrasound scan, *(b)* an X-ray scan and *(c)* a CT scan in each of the last five years are detailed in the following tables.

(a) Ultrasound scans

	Financial year				
HSS Trust	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Altnagelvin	9,618	10,751	10,948	11,486	12,301
Belfast City	14,158	14,747	15,935	16,624	17,046
Causeway	4,274	4,699	4,944	5,288	4,996
Craigavon	[1]14,120	[1]14,371	[1]11,566	13,530	15,621
Down Lisburn	6,814	6,394	7,319	7,763	8,903
Greenpark	2,972	3,004	3,085	3,122	3,137
Mater	2,589	3,451	4,308	4,965	5,222
Newry and Mourne	5,228	5,614	5,668	5,892	5,638
Royal	14,026	15,804	16,760	16,814	18,455
Sperrin Lakeland	20,177	18,954	19,284	18,145	19,557
United	23,665	23,421	23,313	26,487	27,295
UCHT	11,194	11,688	11,774	11,843	12,382

[1] South Tyrone hospital started to use the CRIS system in June 2004. The NIRADS system was used prior to June 2004. Therefore, the data detailed above for 2004-05 are not a full financial year and the data for years 2001-02 to 2003-04 do not include South Tyrone or Armagh community hospitals.

Source:
HPSS Trusts

(b) X-rays

	Financial year				
HSS Trust	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Altnagelvin	72,439	73,921	76,659	78,754	82,080
Belfast City	82,853	80,591	81,848	79,945	84,523
Causeway	37,915	38,728	38,025	39,352	41,240
Craigavon	[1]73,715	[1]75,651	[1]77,513	100,229	108,892
Down Lisburn	41,811	42,261	43,000	41,847	44,985
Greenpark	32,770	33,041	32,437	31,165	35,533
Mater	38,630	38,009	39,345	37,635	38,022
Newry and Mourne	36,194	34,034	34,098	33,332	35,223
Royal	133,422	128,283	147,565	146,293	151,066
Sperrin Lakeland	49,664	50,224	53,354	52,517	53,621
United	124,266	129,885	133,650	129,929	137,971
UCHT	86,377	86,641	87,826	90,950	96,234

[1] South Tyrone hospital started to use the CRIS system in June 2004. The NIRADS system was used prior to June 2004. Therefore, the data detailed above for 2004-05 are not a full financial year and the data shown for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 do not include South Tyrone or Armagh community hospitals.

Source:
HPSS Trusts

(c) CT scans

	Financial year				
HSS Trust	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Altnagelvin	4,409	4,391	4,723	4,732	5,149
Belfast City	10,053	11,815	11,283	12,066	12,580
Causeway	2,450	2,547	2,890	3,067	2,724
Craigavon	[1]7,666	[1]7,614	[1]8,332	11,058	12,794
Down Lisburn	2,299	2,228	2,474	2,547	3,076
Greenpark	0	0	0	143	854
Mater	2,593	2,702	2,838	3,168	3,187
Newry and Mourne	1,247	2,383	2,365	2,837	3,395
Royal	9,961	11,282	11,461	12,378	13,687
Sperrin Lakeland	4,579	4,290	4,444	5,574	6,539
United	3,396	7,412	7,451	9,149	10,359
UCHT	4,402	4,682	5,365	5,783	6,097

[1] South Tyrone hospital started to use the CRIS system in June 2004. The NIRADS system was used prior to June 2004. Therefore, the data detailed above for 2004-05 are not a full financial year and the data shown for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 do not include South Tyrone.

Source:
HPSS Trusts

The number of patients who are waiting to have (i) an ultrasound scan, (ii) an X-ray and (iii) a CT scan performed in each health trust in the Province are detailed in the following table.

	Diagnostic test		
HSS Trust	*(i) Ultrasound*	*(ii) X-ray*	*(iii) CT scan*
Altnagelvin	1,164	200	402
Belfast City	1,382	0	1,089
Causeway	1,041	155	319
Craigavon	1,725	206	810
Down Lisburn	718	168	77
Greenpark	123	0	30
Mater	470	21	484
Newry and Mourne	881	180	229
Royal	963	7	601
Sperrin Lakeland	747	42	52
United	1,999	274	809
UCHT	1,126	0	330

Notes:
1. Figures are correct as at 26 January 2007.
2. The information supplied by the HPSS Trusts has not been validated by the Department.

Source:
HPSS Trusts

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Equipment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, question 111865, what differences there are between the Tempest and Mastiff vehicles, with regard to *(a)* normal operations in theatre and *(b)* mine protection; and if he will make a statement. [125002]

Mr. Ingram: Mastiff has been procured to meet the requirement for a medium protected patrol vehicle. It

will be used to transport conventional forces who will conduct patrolling tasks and other duties as military commanders see fit. It has been optimised for this role through a series of modifications, which include additional protection measures and self defence equipment.

The Tempest Mine Protected Vehicle has been configured for use by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams for specialist tasks such as EOD reconnaissance, rescue and recovery and route proving; they have some UK specific EOD modifications.

I am withholding details about specific levels of protection as the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will increase the number of *(a)* fixed wing and *(b)* rotary heavy lift aircraft deployed to Afghanistan. [124134]

Des Browne: We currently assess that there are sufficient air assets in Afghanistan for Commanders to do the jobs they need to do.

I announced a substantial force package uplift on 26 February which included, among other things, the deployment of four Sea King helicopters and an additional C-130 Hercules which will significantly improve our lift capabilities in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Medical Records

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what systems are in place to catalogue and account for medical records of British service personnel; [121519]

(2) how many British service personnel's medical records are missing. [121520]

Derek Twigg: A complete medical record is maintained for every member of the armed forces. This facilitates where necessary any ongoing medical treatment and supervision wherever the individual is serving, and provides an audit trail of responsibility for those engaged in the care and treatment of patients.

The custody and security of medical and dental documents of all personnel is the responsibility of the senior Medical Officer (MO) or (for the Navy) the Medical Branch Rating (MBR) of the establishment or ship in which the individual is serving. To prevent breaches of medical confidentiality, accidental or otherwise, all medical records are kept secure at all times. They are not kept in the possession of any person other than the MO or medical staff in the course of their duties. When not in use all such documents, notes, correspondence and external media used to store medical data are kept in a locked container.

Quarterly musters of all medical records held are carried out in all primary care units against unit nominal lists, and more frequently when required (e.g. when a unit is formed or deployed). During musters, medical records are scrutinized by physically inspecting the main service medical record known as "F Med 4" form which are a series of documents which record an individual's medical history. These are cross-checked against other records to ensure that personnel remain in-date; records are accurate; and no treatments or appointments are outstanding. Scrutiny of medical records is carried out on receipt of a new "F Med 4" and on notice of drafting or deployment.

When an individual is receiving secondary-care treatment in an NHS hospital, any medical notes are the responsibility of the NHS Trust where the treatment is taking place. When an individual is discharged from hospital, the hospital discharge report is enclosed in the "F Med 4", along with other clinical reports such as Laboratory, Physiotherapy and X-ray. The same procedures apply for documentation from MOD Regional Rehabilitation Units, Departments of Community Mental Health and other directly managed units such as the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court.

There is currently no centrally available source of information regarding the number of missing medical records, and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information could be obtained only by requesting every military medical centre in the UK and overseas to provide details of records not held at their last quarterly medical records muster.

Armed Forces: Orthopaedics

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have suffered amputations as a result of wounds received on active service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [119395]

Derek Twigg: The Complex Rehabilitation and Amputee Unit (CRAU) at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC), at Headley Court in Surrey, has since 1 June 2006 (the date on which it became fully operational) treated a total of 42 service amputees. Of these, 14 were casualties from Op. Telic (Iraq) and six from Op. Herrick (Afghanistan).

Prior to CRAU becoming operational, comprehensive information on the number of military personnel who have suffered amputations as a result of wounds received on active service was not held centrally. To provide this information would require the examination of the individual medical records of each patient who has been classified as very seriously injured (VSI) or seriously injured (SI) in Iraq and Afghanistan. These records can only be viewed for non-clinical reasons with the express consent of each individual concerned, to protect patient confidentiality.

Army: Afghanistan

Sir Peter Tapsell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers serving with the British Army in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan have passed an oral examination in the Pashto language. [124667]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* All regular and reserve service personnel deploying on operations receive some level of language training, ranging from a few hours to a ten week course. Selected individuals receive longer periods of training.

There are currently 25 members of the British Army who have passed a speaking exam in Pashto. Of these, 16 are Army officers, one of whom is currently deployed in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

Astute Class Submarines

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he has had with representatives of BAE Systems on the finalisation of a price for Astute boats two and three. [125806]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* There have been no meetings regarding the finalisation of prices for Astute boats 2 and 3 between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and representatives of BAE Systems.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the workforce at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is expected to retire in the next five years. [125805]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* The Ministry of Defence does not hold such details about the workforce at the Atomic Weapons Establishment which is managed under Government Owned/Contractor Operated arrangements. However, the AWE contractor has advised that approximately 12 per cent. of the current workforce will reach retirement age before March 2012.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much each of the armed services is contributing to the planned additional spending at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each of the next five years. [124587]

Des Browne: As the White Paper, "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent", published in December 2006, made clear, the investment required to maintain our deterrent will not come at the expense of the conventional capabilities our armed forces need. The additional investment at the Atomic Weapons Establishment averaging £350 million per annum over the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 was included in the Defence Budget through the 2004 Spending Review process. The Defence Budget for future years will be set in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Bombs

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements he has made to destroy the stockpiles of cluster munition shells 155mm HE M483 in the second half of 2007, as stated in March 2006. [125874]

Mr. Ingram: The disposal of the 155mm HE M483 began in late 2004 and is continuing. A contract was let under the NATO Maintenance Supply Agency in conjunction with the Dutch Ministry of Defence and awarded to an Italian company, Esplodenti Sabino. Under current plans, the final disposal will be completed in autumn 2007.

Bombs: Operation Allied Force

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the RBL755 cluster bombs dropped during Operation Allied Force were dropped in *(a)* Kosovo, *(b)* Serbia, *(c)* Montenegro and *(d)* Albania. [126281]

Mr. Ingram: Of the 531 RBL755 cluster munitions dropped during Operation Allied Force, 32 were dropped on Serbia and the remainder on Kosovo. No RBL755 were dropped on Montenegro or Albania.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision has been made to replace assets lost as a result of *(a)* damage and destruction during operations and *(b)* reduced service life due to increased use. [121877]

Mr. Ingram: We do not make financial provision in anticipation of damage to or destruction of equipment during operations. Where possible, damaged equipment is restored, drawing on funding from the Treasury Reserve as appropriate. Equipment which has been destroyed may also be replaced through a call on the Reserve, though in some cases we may choose to restore the capability rather than seek a like-for-like replacement.

We continue to monitor whether the current high operational tempo is likely to result in a reduced service life for some equipment, and will take appropriate resource allocation decisions if this proves to be the case.

Departments: PFI

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which future projects his Department is considering a private finance initiative deal; what the estimated lifetime value of each potential contract is; and what period each will cover. [125188]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence is considering using the private finance initiative for the following projects which are at preferred bidder status:

Project name	*Estimated contract length (years)*
Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA)	27
Future Provision of Marine Services (FPMS)	15
Corsham Development Project (CDP)	25
Defence Training Rationalisation (DTR)	30

I am withholding details of the estimated lifetime value of each potential contract. The information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial

interests of the Department as these projects are still subject to continuing negotiations with their preferred bidder.

The Department is also considering the use of the private finance initiative for a joint project with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Search and Rescue Helicopter project. The estimated capital value of this project is £400 million with an estimated contract length of 25 years.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126797]

Derek Twigg: The number of work permits applied for by the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EH101 Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original order was for Merlin Mark 1 helicopters; and how many were subsequently brought into service. [124596]

Mr. Ingram: 44 Merlin Mk1 helicopters were ordered and all were subsequently brought into service.

HMS Grimsby

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what he expects the total cost of repairs to HMS Grimsby to be; what her current status is; when he expects her to become operational; and if he will make a statement. [125394]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* It is not possible to identify separately the repair costs for HMS Grimsby as these have been combined with upkeep costs as part of her Ships Support Period Contract. The combined value, however, of both the repair and upkeep work for the vessel is some £3.7 million. The work is progressing well and HMS Grimsby is on schedule to return to operational service in February 2008.

Identification Friend Foe Systems

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* RAF and *(b)* Army Air Corps aircraft and helicopters have been fitted with the Successor Identification Friend or Foe System; and what plans he has to fit systems to those which have not. [122224]

Mr. Ingram: The following RAF and Army Air Corps aircraft and helicopters have been, or are being fitted, with the Successor Identification Friend or Foe (SIFF) system transponder:

TriStarK/KCMk1
TriStar C Mk 2/2a
VC10CMk1K
VC10KMk3
VC10KMk4
BAe 125, BAe 146
Nimrod R Mk 1
Islander AL Mk 1
Islander CC Mk 2
Islander CC Mk 2a
Hercules C130K
Sentry E-3D
Dominie T Mk1
Hawk, Tornado GR4
Harrier GR9, Harrier T12
Tornado F3 (also fitted with interrogator)
Chinook Mk 2/2a
Gazelle
Puma
Lynx Mk 7
Lynx Mk 9.

Military Aid: Colombia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department had with the Colombian Defence Minister during his recent visit on *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU support for Plan Colombia, part II; and if he will make a statement. [124583]

Des Browne: Both I and the Minister of State for the Armed Forces in separate meetings discussed the current security situation in Colombia, progress on human rights within the Colombian armed forces, and UK-Colombia security co-operation with Minister Santos during his recent visit. The EU support for Plan Colombia, part II, was not raised.

Naval Bases: Ambulance Services

John McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what mechanisms ambulance cover is provided at *(a)* HM Naval Base Clyde and *(b)* HM Naval Base Raleigh. [126084]

Mr. Ingram: Ambulance cover at both HMNB Clyde and HMS Raleigh is provided by the relevant local ambulance service (the Scottish Ambulance Service and the South Western Ambulance Service respectively). At both bases this cover is augmented by local on-site ambulances.

John McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to change ambulance cover at HM Naval Base Raleigh. [126295]

Mr. Ingram: There are no plans to change ambulance cover at HMS Raleigh.

Nuclear Submarines

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the additional costs are of *(a)* maintaining and protecting continuous at sea deterrence and *(b)* keeping a submarine-based nuclear force without continuous at sea deterrence. [123986]

Des Browne: As paragraphs 5-7 and 5-8 of the White Paper: 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994) make clear, our policy is to maintain continuous at sea deterrent patrolling to ensure our deterrent remains fully credible. There would, theoretically, be a number of alternative postures to continuous patrolling but we do not regard them as providing credible deterrence. However, for a given size of fleet, the cost difference between maintaining continuous deterrent patrolling and not doing so would potentially be relatively minor since the costs directly associated with operating the submarine on patrol are a very small proportion of the overall costs of maintaining, supporting and operating the deterrent. Total expenditure on the capital and running costs of the Trident nuclear deterrent, including the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, in 2006-07 is expected to be around £1,500 million.

Nuclear Weapons

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will delay a decision to replace Trident to allow time for a more thorough strategic analysis of the issues and for a wider public debate. [120658]

Des Browne: The White Paper concerns decisions on the replacement of the submarine delivery platform not the Trident missiles or warheads.

The White Paper set out fully why we believe it is necessary for the UK to retain a minimum independent nuclear deterrent, and why decisions are needed now if we are to maintain deterrent capability at the end of the lives of the Vanguard class submarines. I also covered these issues in detail in my evidence to the Defence Committee on 6 February.

In setting out the Government's position on 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 21-24, the Prime Minister also set out a timetable for a process of public and parliamentary debate. As part of this process, my ministerial colleagues and I have been discussing the future deterrent in a wide range of forums. For example, there has been a full debate in the House of Lords, and I have given a speech at King's College, London; provided the Defence Committee with wide-ranging evidence; taken part in a televised debate with CND; and discussed the future deterrent with a panel of experts at RUSI. On 14 March, at the conclusion of this process, there will be a full debate and vote in the House of Commons. This has given plenty of opportunity for all to consider and debate the issues.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the replacement of Trident on the nuclear weapons proliferation regime. [120659]

Des Browne: The Government are strongly committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The White Paper on the Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent published on 4 December 2006 (Cm 6994) makes clear that renewing our minimum nuclear deterrent capability is fully consistent with all our international obligations, including those under the NPT.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual in-service cost of the UK's nuclear deterrent, including the Atomic Weapons Establishment, was in each year from 1998 to 2005, calculated using the method applied to calculate the in-service costs quoted in paragraph 5 to14 of the White Paper on the Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent. [123988]

Des Browne: As set out in paragraph 5 to 14 of the White Paper on the 'Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994), we estimate that the in-service costs of the UK's nuclear deterrent will be around 5 to 6 per cent. of the defence budget once the proposed fleet of replacement SSBNs comes into service. This calcution is based on initial whole life estimates of in-service and disposal costs for the deterrent capability and the estimated costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, averaged over the currently expected life of the new submarines and compared to the current defence budget. Taking similar costs for the current system, from 1998 to 2005, and comparing them to the actual defence budgets for those years, the average annual in-service cost was around 4 per cent. of the defence budget. The cost of the deterrent in 2006-07, including the cost of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, is expected to be around £1,500 million, or just over five per cent of the current defence budget.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria were adopted in deciding the number of *(a)* warheads, *(b)* missiles and *(c)* submarine launch platforms required to provide for a minimum nuclear deterrent. [126308]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of today publishing the Ministry of Defence's initial response to the Defence Select Committee's report on the White Paper. "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994, published December 2006).

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors were taken into account in identifying the United Kingdom's vital national interests in the White Paper on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent Cm 6994. [127305]

Des Browne: As stated in paragraph 3-4 of the White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994, published December 2006),

"Our focus is on preventing nuclear attack. The UK's nuclear weapons are not designed for use during military conflict but instead to deter and prevent nuclear blackmail and acts of aggression against our vital interests that cannot be countered by other means."

It is a key part of our deterrence posture that we retain ambiguity about precisely when, how and at what scale we could contemplate use of our nuclear deterrent. We would only consider using nuclear weapons in self-defence—including the defence of our NATO allies—and even then only in extreme circumstances. That has been and will remain our policy.

Submarines: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what policies are in place to ensure the maintenance of the manufacturing and skills base of the UK's submarine industry. [125804]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* As stated in the Defence Industrial Strategy, it is government policy to retain the UK submarine manufacturing and skills base for the foreseeable future as it will be essential to the maintenance of the UK's independent nuclear deterrent. Key to that is the establishment of a design and build programme which balances sustainability requirements with military need and affordability. MOD is working closely with industry to agree such a programme, together with other issues such as collaboration and rationalisation to ensure a viable enterprise well into the future. The Government response to the House of Commons Defence Committee's report "The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: the Manufacturing and Skills Base" (HC 59 dated 19 December 2006) provides further information on this issue.

Trident: Legal Opinion

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has requested the legal services of his Department to provide him with an assessment of whether any decision to replace *(a)* the Trident launch platform, *(b)* Trident missiles or *(c)* Trident nuclear warheads with new components would be compatible with the United Kingdom's legal obligations under Articles 1 and 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. [126301]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by hon. Friend, the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), the Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, South (Alan Simpson) on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1843-4W. The Government set out its position on the international law position in paragraphs 2-9 and 2-10 of the White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994, published December 2006).

Urgent Operational Requirements

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 963W, on urgent operational requirements, what records are kept of formal requests made by lower echelon commanders which have been submitted to theatre commanders for consideration as urgent statements of user requirement requests; [124995]

(2), what records are kept of urgent statements of user requirements generated by commanders-in-theatre approved by the chain of command; [124998]

(3) at what stage an urgent operational order is considered formally to have formally come into being; and by whose decision. [124999]

Mr. Ingram: Requests by lower echelon commanders are staffed through the in-theatre chain of command, with both the unit and the brigade in theatre keeping relevant records.

In the Land environment, if the requirement is for a new item of equipment or for more equipment, where insufficient stocks are held on the inventory for the current operations, the request is forwarded to the Divisional Equipment Capability (EC) Cell for further staffing. The Divisional EC Cell constructs an Urgent Statement of User Requirement (USUR) in consultation with the originator to ensure that the exact requirement is captured and submits it to the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ). Records of the USURs are held in the EC Cells in the appropriate theatre.

Royal Navy and Royal Air Force requirements are staffed up the appropriate chain of command, with USURs then submitted to PJHQ in a similar way.

If PJHQ endorses the requirement, the USUR is passed to MOD Centre for action. Records of endorsed USURs are held in PJHQ and MOD Centre.

Once endorsed by PJHQ, the USUR is considered to have become an Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR), allocated a unique number and tracked on a central UOR database.

Warships: Deployment

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy warships of frigate destroyer size and above are deployed on operations; and what the maximum numbers deployed were in each year since 1997. [125396]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* The number of warships on operations varies considerably within and between years. The number of warships of frigate/destroyer size and above currently deployed on operations is eight. Data on all past ship deployments are not held centrally.

Warships: Decommissioning

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels were paid off in the last six months; and which Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels he expects to be paid off in the next six months. [125395]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* No RFA vessels were paid off in the six months to 1 March 2007. Future plans for the structure of the RFA have yet to be finalised.

Written Questions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy that all written questions on British nuclear weapons tabled for answer on or before 12 March will be answered with a substantive response before 14 March. [126717]

Des Browne *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* We will endeavour to answer every question asked on British nuclear weapons prior to the debate on 14 March. Questions tabled on or after 12 March, however, may not appear in the *Official Report* before the debate.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Library

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people used the facilities of the British Library in 2005-06. [126268]

Mr. Lammy: The British Library Funding Agreement includes a set of metrics—a number of which are based on use of services—against which they report. For 2005-06 their outturns against these metrics were as follows:

Metric	*2005-06 outturn*
Number of visits to reading rooms	462,207
Number of items supplied/consulted remotely and on-site	5,877,321
Number of children attending educational sessions + Number of visitors to Library's 'learning' website	302,367
Number of visitors to the Library's on-site and virtual exhibitions	865,813
Number of searches of Library's on-line catalogue	24,626,166

Olympic Games: Civil Servants

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in her Department are employed on London 2012-related matters; and how many have private sector experience. [125385]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* Within my Department there are at present 49 full-time equivalent staff spending the majority of their time employed on London 2012-related matters.

In addition, there are a further eight full-time equivalent staff in the Olympic Programme Support Unit, which provides cross-programme support for the Olympic Board and is based, for administrative purposes, within my Department.

Of these 57 full-time equivalent staff, 10 contract and seconded staff, and other full-time equivalent staff, have been recruited specifically for their experience of procurement, project management, finance and infrastructure transactions, all gained partly or wholly in the private sector. Other full-time equivalent staff also have experience of working in and with the private sector but specific records on levels of experience are not available.

Football: Tickets

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions her Department has had with the footballing authorities on ticket pricing. [126067]

Mr. Caborn: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor I has held discussions with the football authorities on ticket pricing.

The Government have no role in the commercial and sporting operation of professional football. The issue of ticket prices is a matter between the individual clubs and the relevant football authorities.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding the Countryside Agency has provided to the IPPR or IPPR Trading Ltd. in each year since May 1997; and what the purpose was of such funding. [123895]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

When it was still part of The Countryside Agency[1], the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) agreed some sponsorship funding for the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) North towards its "A New Rural Agenda" project. The Countryside Agency's sponsorship funding was for a total of £25,000 over two years:

	£
2005-06	12,500
2006-07	12,500

The purpose of this funding was:

(a) to encourage some fresh thinking about rural issues and policies;

(b) to provide the CRC with opportunities to engage in the debate this project was expected to generate;

(c) to open up opportunities for read-across with CRC work; and

(d) to learn more about the working methods of think tanks which could be of use to the CRC.

[1] The Countryside Agency is now part of Natural England.

National Lottery: Grants

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of lottery money was provided to *(a)* sports and *(b)* other community projects in each of the last five years. [126959]

Mr. Caborn: The sports good cause has received 16.66 per cent. of operator-related national lottery good cause income in each year since 1998. The total amount of lottery money raised for the sports good cause in the last five years is set out in the table.

Total lottery income to the sports good cause

	£ million[1]
2001-02	302
2002-03	258
2003-04	227
2004-05	240
2005-06	244
Total	1,271

[1] Figures rounded to nearest £ million.

The other good causes combined have received 83.33 per cent. of operator-related national lottery good cause income in each year since 1998. The total amount of lottery money raised for the other good causes in the last five years are set out in the table.

Total lottery income to other good causes

	£ million[1]
2001-02	1,515
2002-03	1,332

Total lottery income to other good causes

	£ million[1]
2003-04	1,163
2004-05	1,231
2005-06	1,248
Total	6,489

[1] Figures rounded to nearest £ million.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the amount of lottery money that will be provided to *(a)* the Olympics, *(b)* sports and *(c)* other community projects in each of the next five years. [126960]

Mr. Caborn: It was always understood when we bid that national lottery funding for London 2012 would involve some loss of income to the non-Olympic good causes. Non-Olympic distributors may lose an average of 5 per cent. of their income because of sales diversion to Olympic lottery games over the period 2005-06 to 2012-13. In addition, we have already announced that £410 million will be taken from non-Olympic lottery proceeds between 2009 and 2012. No decision has been made about how that amount will be shared between the various non-Olympic good causes nor on the further use of lottery funding to meet any of the £900 million in additional costs that have been announced. It is therefore not possible to provide the estimates requested.

New Opportunities Fund: Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total value of *(a)* awards and *(b)* payments made from the New Opportunities Fund for physical education and sport has been in the 2006-07 financial year; and if she will make a statement. [126492]

Mr. Caborn: The figures in the table reflect the total value of awards and payments made from the New Opportunities Fund for the financial year 2006-07. The financial year has not ended so the figures provided are YTD figures.

	Awards made	£ *Payments made*
New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPES)	19,397,449	187,760,665
Community Sport	9,099,153	23,925,051
School Sports Co-ordinators	10,643,835	10,090,561
Totals	39,140,437	221,776,277

These figures do not include Awards for All and other grants that have funded sport indirectly.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff are employed in each division of the Olympic Delivery Authority; and how many have over five years' relevant experience in the private sector. [125384]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has supplied me with the following breakdown of the divisional deployment of the 117 staff they currently employ, as detailed in the following table:

Division	*Number of staff*
Chief Executive's Office	2
Chairman's Office	1
Construction	3
Design and Regeneration	16
Development Control	7
Finance	9
Health and Safety	2
Human Resources	6
Infrastructure and Utilities	5
IT	2
Legal	10
Programme Assurance Office	1
Communications	12
Procurement	5
Property	5
Risk and Audit	1
Security	3
Transport	27

In order to build a work force capable of demonstrating the world-class business performance the ODA needs to help deliver the London 2012 Games, the ODA continually seeks to fill skills gaps utilizing the best of private and public sector expertise available. Detailed information on the level of experience of the 117 individual staff members currently employed could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. However, the ODA's executive team (chief executive and directors) has spent approximately 55 per cent. of their total employment years in the private sector.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the cost of providing Olympic standard shooting ranges at Woolwich. [125296]

Mr. Caborn: The cost of providing Olympic standard shooting ranges at the Royal Artillery Barracks (RAB), Woolwich, is contained within the $32 million cost of works identified in the Candidate File, at 2004 prices. Work is now under way to outline the full scope of the works needed at the RAB site, including detailed feasibility work.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library minutes of all meetings of the Budget and Revenues Sub-Groups set up to consider the advice provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers on Olympic costs in 2004. [125375]

Tessa Jowell: The remit of the Budget and Revenue Sub-Group (February 2004 to July 2004) was to look at the costs, revenues and strategic issues affecting the proposed Olympic budget prior to the bid. The notes of the meetings of the sub-group contain information which is directly relevant to current commercial negotiations which could be prejudiced by its release.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the opening Olympic and Paralympic ceremony is expected to cost. [125816]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Wantage (Mr. Vaizey) on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1405W.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the London Development Agency has spent on *(a)* acquiring and *(b)* mediating land on the Olympic Park; and what estimate she has made of the likely value of that land after the Games are over. [126568]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The London Development Agency (LDA) expects to spend around £700 million on land acquisition and £220 million on land remediation in the Olympic Park. The LDA are currently working to determine the land value post games.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants and funding facilities Lancashire will be able to apply for in connection with the 2012 Olympics. [126639]

Mr. Caborn: Both UK Sport and Sports England award Lottery grants and distribute funding provided by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, in line with their own policies and priorities for the development of sport.

£40 million is available for the Community Club Development Programme in 2006-08 and a proportion of the £35 million allocated to the National Sports Foundation will also be spent on facilities. In addition, we expect that local authorities will be investing around £1 billion in sports services (facilities and development) over the next three years.

There are no grants or funding available for facilities specifically in connection with the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, including for the purpose of facilities being selected as a pre-Games training camp. It is assumed that projects which have a clear long term rationale will continue to be considered on the basis of existing strategic priorities and funding criteria, but any potential usage for training and preparation camps should be regarded as added value, rather than a core element of the case for funding.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has announced that it will make around £9 million available to overseas Olympic and Paralympic teams to use pre-Games training camps in the UK to prepare for the 2012 Games. This scheme will enable all 203 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the 161 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) to apply for credit of up to £26,000 towards the cost of preparing their athletes at UK designated pre-Games training camps.

Police: Costs

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Criminal Justice and Police Bill—Police Powers to close Disorderly Licensed Premises to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125607]

Mr. Woodward: There is no current Criminal Justice and Police Bill going through Parliament which includes measures to close disorderly licensed premises. However, powers in the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 relating to the closure of licensed premises on the grounds of disorder were replaced and extended by powers in the Licensing Act 2003. We have no current estimate of the actual cost of using these powers. Their deterrent value, along with the use of voluntary closures and other strategies to prevent crime and disorder, mean such powers are used minimally.

Princess of Wales: Monuments

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible on (i) security, (ii) cleaning, (iii) repair, (iv) refurbishment and (v) other costs in relation to the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [126498]

Mr. Lammy: The Royal Parks Agency (TRP) has responsibility for maintaining the Diana Memorial Fountain. In the 12 months up to the end of January 2007 TRP spent a total of £86,579 on security and cleaning and £111,449 on maintenance and other costs.

The cost per visitor in the period was 28 pence.

Regeneration: Finance

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of her Department's spending was devoted to *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural regeneration and redevelopment in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [125888]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sport Action Zones

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sport action zones were planned in 1999-2000; how many were created in each year since then; how many are still operating; and if she will make a statement. [126496]

Mr. Caborn: A total of 30 sport action zones were originally planned in two phases with the first 12 pilots being approved in 1999 and established in 2000-01. Funding for sport action zones ceased in 2006, but much of the work of the zones is continuing through Sport England's Community Investment Fund (CIF) and the Community Sports Networks.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the original budget was for sport action zones (SAZ) when they were announced in 1999-2000 for each of the 10 planned years of investment; how much was spent on SAZs in

each year to date; how much her Department plans to spend on SAZs in each of the next four financial years; and if she will make a statement. [126497]

Mr. Caborn: In 2000 Sport England announced a package of £750 million investment over 10 years in community sport which included funding for 12 designated sport action zones. The figure for the total spent in each year is not available, but core funding for each zone totalled £350,000 over the five years of planned investment. A further £1.998 million magnet funding was also awarded to the scheme. Any future investment in sport action zones has been mainstreamed through Sport England's Community Investment Fund (CIF).

Sports: Obesity

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to tackle obesity through sport. [117904]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 5 February 2007]:* My Department is promoting sport for people of all ages and backgrounds, both as something enjoyable and worthwhile in itself and, where appropriate, as something that has a vital role to play in tackling obesity.

As part of my Department's ongoing work to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity for the under-11s by 2010, we have been working closely with our target-holding partners, the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills, on how best to tackle this serious public health problem.

The National School Sport Strategy, jointly implemented by DCMS and DfES, is a key component of a multi-faceted, 'whole school' programme of addressing obesity. The 2005/06 school sport survey found that overall 80 per cent. of pupils participate in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week. This exceeded the target of 75 per cent. for 2006 and demonstrates a considerable increase from the estimated 25 per cent. in 2002. This target will rise to 85 per cent. by 2008. By 2010 the ambition is to offer all children at least four hours of sport a week.

Furthermore, we are working with school sports partnerships to increase participation in physical activity by overweight and obese children.

In addition, we have a PSA target to increase by 3 per cent. between 2005 and 2008 the number of adults and young people aged 16 and above from priority groups (in this context defined as those with a physical or mental disability, black or minority ethnic groups, those from socioeconomic groups C2, D and E, and women) who participate in active sports at least 12 times a year and engage in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport at least three times a week.

Regional Sports Boards in partnership with Community Sports Networks are responsible for delivering the target in each of the Government regions. Sport England is also a key partner in our delivery chain for obesity with successful action dependent on good regional co-ordination and close working with primary care trusts and local authorities to increase participation.

We have now invested over £1 billion in 4,000 new or refurbished sports facilities in order to help deliver this target and we are working to ensure that the 2012 Olympic Games creates a lasting legacy of increased participation in sport and physical activity.

Sports: Training

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* sports and *(b)* sports coaches whose organisational bodies do not qualify for access to the UK's coaching certificate because they do not have a recognised national governing body; and if she will make a statement. [126322]

Mr. Caborn: UK coaching certificate (UKCC) qualifications are currently being implemented in 21 sports.

In each of these sports, the qualifications are developed by national source groups, led by the appropriate recognised British or home country governing body and including representatives from other recognised home country governing bodies.

We are considering the expansion of UKCC beyond the initial identified sports but we do not currently envisage funding the development of UKCC qualifications in the small number of sports without a recognised national governing body.

Access to UKCC qualifications is not dependent on membership of a specified governing body. When a UKCC qualification in a particular sport is endorsed, it does not prevent organisations from continuing to offer their existing coaching qualifications nor are coaches legally required to take the UKCC qualification in order to continue coaching.

Swimming Pools: South East Region

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in respect of which outdoor lidos in the South East Government Office area renaissance investment has been provided; and if she will make a statement. [12[illegible]04]

Mr. Caborn: The Heritage lottery fund has supported the restoration of a number of lidos across the UK but none of these are sited within the SE GO area.

All requests for lottery funding, including applications to regenerate outdoor lidos, will be considered on merit and in line with the set criteria for funding.

Television: Violence

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to reduce the impact of violence on television on children. [126640]

Mr. Woodward: Parliament has charged the independent broadcasting regulator, Ofcom, with maintaining standards to protect children from

harmful material. Ofcom's Broadcasting Code includes specific requirements to protect people under 18. Within this framework, it is the broadcasters' job to make judgments about what individual programmes should contain and when they are broadcast.

Ofcom also have a statutory duty to promote media literacy so people can access and critically assess a wide range of media. It also helps them understand and operate technology in a way which enables them to maximise the benefits, and minimise the potential harms of the electronic media.

Tourism: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists visited Lancashire in each of the last five years. [126152]

Mr. Woodward: The tables show the number of visits to Lancashire and the North West from (i) UK residents (with an overnight stay) and (ii) overseas residents.

Domestic overnight trips[1]

	Lancashire	*Million North West*
2001[2]	—	13.7
2002	5.1	14.5
2003	4.2	16.0
2004	3.3	12.9
2005	3.8	15.3

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which are thought to be an under-representation of the true position.
[2] For 2001, Lancashire data are not readily available.
Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

Inbound visits

	Lancashire	*Million North West*
2001	0.2	1.4
2002	0.2	1.5
2003	0.2	1.8
2004	0.2	1.8
2005	0.3	2.3

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

In addition, account should be taken of the number of day visits made to, or within, the North West (Lancashire not available). The Leisure Day Visits Survey in 2002-03 recorded a total of over 100 million tourism day visits to destinations in the North West. It is not possible to provide a time series for this information as the surveys are run intermittently.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Royal Lancashire Society

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been granted by the North West Development Agency to the Royal Lancashire Society; and for what purpose. [120909]

Margaret Hodge: Regional development agencies were given the strategic lead for tourism in the regions and responsibility for ensuring that appropriate delivery structures were in place in April 2003. Delivery responsibility was devolved to regional tourist boards which were funded by regional development agencies.

The North West Development Agency (NWDA) has not given any direct funding to the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society. However, the NWDA did provide £1,255,000 to the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board (LBTB) for the year 2006-07. From this, the tourist board granted £3,000 towards the staging of the 2006 Royal Lancashire show, on the grounds that the show would serve to raise the profile of the LBTB and the Lancashire rural tourism initiative. The NWDA"s strategy for tourism in England's north-west identifies the show as one of a number of events of national and international significance that take place across the region. The show has also been identified for support in the Lancashire and Blackpool visitor economy strategy 2006 - 2016, because of its potential for further development of the visitor economy.

Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board has delegated authority to invest in those projects which it believes will raise its profile. The Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society agreed to publicise Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board by promoting their logo and mentioning the tourist board in press releases.

In addition, an undergraduate has been placed with the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society for nine months (until July 2007) to assist with the marketing of the 2007 show. This post is being jointly funded through the Lancashire rural tourism initiative, which is also supported by the NWDA, and Lancashire County Developments Limited.

Bankruptcy: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many local businesses in Lancashire went bankrupt in each of the last five years. [126150]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Regional insolvency statistics are only available on the basis of the locations of official receivers' offices, each of which covers a group of county courts where the cases are heard and the courts having jurisdiction over these. It is not possible to provide precise statistics by administrative geographies such as counties, constituencies or Government Office regions. The following table provides figures for self-employed bankruptcies and company compulsory liquidations dealt with by courts having insolvency jurisdiction and located within Lancashire[1]. These statistics are considered to be closest to those requested, however they should not be treated as entirely reliable estimates for the county of Lancashire.

[1] Courts with insolvency jurisdiction within Lancashire are Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Lancaster, Preston and Tameside.

	Bankruptcy orders for self employed individuals	*Company compulsory liquidations*
2002	336	166
2003	292	105
2004	295	76

	Bankruptcy orders for self employed individuals	Company compulsory liquidations
2005	460	87
2006	[1,2]278	151

[1] Figures for bankruptcies in 2006 are currently only available up to Q3 2006 because the Breakdown by trading status is published one quarter in arrears of the total headline statistics.
[2] January to September.

British Telecom: Billing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to ensure that Ofcom investigates British Telecom's decision to introduce a penalty charge for customers who do not pay by direct debit. [125085]

Margaret Hodge: I have raised the matter with the chief executive officer of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom is considering whether any of the suite of changes BT has recently made raise any regulatory issues.

For a number of years, BT has applied a price differential between customers who pay their accounts by direct debit and those who pay by other means. This reflects the higher processing and debt management costs associated with payments not made by direct debit. Such differentials are common practice among communications providers and utility service providers.

From 1 May 2007 BT is changing how it presents this differential from a discount for those customers paying by direct debit to a charge for those paying by other means. BT has combined this change with an increase of £6 a year in the charge (from £12 to £18). But the increased charge will not apply to special tariff schemes for vulnerable customers provided under the Universal Service Obligation.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on BT's decision to impose a charge on customers who do not pay their bills by direct debit; and what subsequent action he has taken. [126556]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* I have received representations from a number of hon. Members on behalf of constituents and have raised the matter with the chief executive officer of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom is considering whether any of the suite of changes BT has recently made raise any regulatory issues.

For a number of years, BT has applied a price differential between customers who pay their accounts by direct debit and those who pay by other means. This reflects the increased processing and debt management costs associated with payments not made by direct debit. Such differentials are common practice among communications providers and utility service providers.

From 1 May 2007 BT is changing how it presents this differential from a discount for those customers paying by direct debit to a charge for those paying by other means. BT has combined this change with an increase of £6 a year in the charge (from £12 to £18). But the increased charge will not apply to special tariff schemes for vulnerable customers provided under the Universal Service Obligation.

Construction

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to tackle payment abuse in the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [126749]

Margaret Hodge: The DTI is developing detailed proposals to amend the adjudication and payment provisions in Part II of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. I intend to publish a consultation paper on the proposals to follow up our previous joint consultation with the Welsh Assembly Government on 'Improving payment practices in the construction industry'.

Defence Equipment: Indonesia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the level of Indonesia's debt to the Export Credits Guarantee Department is for guarantees issued for *(a)* goods in the defence sector as a whole and *(b)* Hawk aircraft. [125898]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* At the end of February 2007 unrecovered claims under Indonesia's debt rescheduling agreement with the Export Credits Guarantee Department stood at £757 million, of which approximately 75 per cent. is defence-related. Hawk aircraft account for approximately 60 per cent. of the defence-related figure.

Departmental Opinion Polls

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what opinion polls of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public his Department has commissioned in the last two years; and what the (i) cost and (ii) purpose was of each poll. [117925]

Mr. Darling: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department commissions an annual survey of DTI staff, at an external cost of around £20,000 a year. It also conducts some smaller and one-off surveys as part of its internal communications with a minimal external cost.

(b) The Department does not centrally collect the information sought and to provide it would entail disproportionate cost. Details and costs of DTI surveys, some of which ask respondents to give opinions, are available from the website at www.dtistats.net/surveyactivity.

Departmental Recruitment

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost was of advertising positions in his Department in each year since 1997. [117926]

Mr. Darling: When running recruitment campaigns we use the advertising media most likely to attract people with the necessary skills. Across the civil service a range of media are used—from local newspaper, specialist magazines and the internet, to the public

sector sections of national newspapers. Individual management units generally meet recruitment costs from their own delegated budgets and there are no centrally held records.

BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many current security passes to enter his Department's premises have been issued to employees of BAE Systems; and if he will list the BAE Systems employees who hold such passes. [126536]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No current photographic security passes have been issued to employees of BAE Systems to enter the Department's premises.

Pendle

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what expenditure is planned to be carried out in Pendle by his Department in the years up to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [120613]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) has no expenditure planned in Pendle in the years up to 2010. However, DTI is the sponsor department for the North West Development Agency (NWDA); and the NWDA plans to spend the following on projects in Pendle in the years up to 2010:

	£ million
2006-07	4.9
2007-08	6.7
2008-09	2.9
2009-10	1.2

In addition, expenditure on regional programmes, such as the Business Link Service, will also benefit Pendle.

In terms of service provision, it is not possible to determine the exact levels of funding for regional programmes, as the take-up of services in Pendle in the years up to 2010 cannot be forecast.

Digital Broadcasting

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the impact on the Programming Making and Special Events sector of the Digital Dividend Review; which industry representatives have been consulted by Ofcom during the review; and if he will make a statement. [121070]

Margaret Hodge: The matters raised are the responsibility of the Regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the likely impact of the Digital Dividend Review on the newsgathering operations of UK broadcasters. [124824]

Margaret Hodge: Management of the radio spectrum in the UK is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) the independent communications regulator. Matters concerning the Digital Dividend Review should be addressed directly to Ofcom.

Energy

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish the Energy White Paper. [122509]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 22 February 2007]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to my written statement of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 63-64WS.

Fruit: Prices

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to revise his Department's national pricing code of practice to include soft fruit and vegetables. [126217]

Mr. McCartney: No such steps are necessary. The Code of Practice for Traders on Price Indications approved under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 applies to all types of goods, including soft fruit and vegetables; as well as to services, accommodation and facilities.

IPPR

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding regional development agencies have provided via the Northern Way to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since its creation; and for what purpose. [125715]

Margaret Hodge: I am informed by the regional development agencies that they have made no payments to IPPR or IPPR Trading Ltd with Northern Way Growth Funding, but they are currently discussing a possible contract with them.

Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the primary *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports are between the United Kingdom and (i) Montserrat, (ii) the Cayman Islands, (iii) the Turks and Caicos Islands, (iv) Gibraltar, (v) Tristan da Cunha, (vi) Madagascar, (vii) Bermuda, (viii) New Zealand, (ix) Australia and (x) St. Helena. [125853]

Mr. McCartney: Information on the UK's primary products traded with the aforementioned countries is given in the following table:

Exports/imports	*£000*
Top UK exports to Montserrat	
Beverages	186
Electrical machinery and apparatus and parts	89

Exports/imports	*£000*
Manufactures of metal nes.[1]	77
Iron and steel	75
Machinery specialized for particular industries	50
Total UK exports to Montserrat	664
Top UK imports from Montserrat	
Professional scientific and controlling ins. and parts	71
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	28
Office machines. and ADP equipment	3
Live animals other than animals of Division 03	0
Meat and meat preparations	0
Total UK imports from Montserrat	121
Top UK exports to Cayman Islands	
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	3,453
Road vehicles	3,130
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	2,016
Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes.[1]	1,085
Beverages	562
Total UK exports to Cayman Islands	14,662
Top UK imports from Cayman Islands	
Other transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)	29,627
Photographic and optical goods, nes.[1] watches and clocks	597
Meat and meat preparations	277
Office machines.l and ADP equipment	151
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	95
Total UK imports from Cayman Islands	31,226
Top UK exports to Turks and Caicos Islands	
Road vehicles	569
Beverages	373
General industrial machinery and parts	229
Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet preps. etc.	211
Manufactures of metal nes.[1]	192
Total UK exports to Turks and Caicos Islands	2,241
Top UK imports from Turks and Caicos Islands	
Organic chemicals	65
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	18
Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes.[1]	5
Live animals other than animals of Division 03	0
Meat and meat preparations	0
Total UK imports from Turks and Caicos Islands	100
Top UK Exports to Gibraltar	
Other transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)	93,295
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	46,642
Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	26,721
Road vehicles	17,459
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	8,752
Total UK exports to Gibraltar	254,586
Top UK imports from Gibraltar	
Road vehicles	18,109
Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses etc.	4,272
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	1,994
Power generating machinery and equipment	971
Machinery specialized for particular industries	814
Total UK imports from Gibraltar	30,045
Top UK exports to Madagascar	
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	535
Manufactures of metal nes.[1]	523
Power generating machinery and equipment	418
Machinery specialized for particular industries	344
Beverages	333
Total UK exports to Madagascar	4,223
Top UK imports from Madagascar	
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	22,658
Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and Aq. inverts and preps.	1,363
Crude fertilizers and crude minerals (exc. fuels etc.)	789
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	197
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	189
Total UK imports from Madagascar	25,771
Top UK exports to Bermuda	
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	1,919
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	1,879
Manufactures of metal nes.[1]	1,538
Electrical machinery and apparatus and parts	1,488
Beverages	1,347
Total UK exports to Bermuda	19,580
Top UK imports from Bermuda	
Other transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)	63,920
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	4,870
Vegetables and fruit	2,598
Office machines and ADP equipment	492
Electrical machinery and apparatus and parts	484
Total UK imports from Bermuda	73,687
Top UK exports to New Zealand	
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	43,922
Road vehicles	41,718
Power generating machinery and equipment	37,028
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	32,655
Machinery specialized for particular industries	23,460
Total UK exports to New Zealand	364,334
Top UK imports from New Zealand	
Meat and meat preparations	229,276
Beverages	80,260
Vegetables and fruit	56,807
Textile fibres not manufactured and their waste etc.	30,238
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	26,124
Total UK imports from New Zealand	610,229
Top UK exports to Australia	
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	440,157

Exports/imports	*£000*
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	314,697
Road vehicles	186,669
Machinery specialized for particular industries	139,227
Power generating machinery and equipment	132,142
Total UK exports to Australia	2,420,322
Top UK imports from Australia	
Beverages	446,965
Coal, coke and briquettes	296,463
Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes.[1]	241,428
Non-ferrous metals	228,947
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	129,223
Total UK imports from Australia	2,141,266
Top UK exports to St. Helena[2]	
Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	1,131
Road vehicles	1,085
Professional scientific and controlling ins. and parts	951
Telecoms and sound recording equipment and apparatus	553
Manufactures of metal nes.[1]	472
Total UK exports to St. Helena	8,946
Top UK imports from St. Helena[2]	
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	307
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes.[1]	241
Professional scientific and controlling ins. and parts	72
General industrial machinery and parts	66
Photographic and optical goods, nes.[1] watches and clocks	52
Total UK imports from St. Helena	972

[1] Not elsewhere specified in the classification.
[2] Includes trade with Tristan da Cunha.
Source:
Compiled by DTI from H M Revenue and Customs data.

Postal Services: Buses

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the financial expenditure on post bus services was in each of the last five years; how many post buses there were in each of those years; and if he will make a statement on the levels of public usage of the service. [127090]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. Adam Crozier the chief executive has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Gentleman.

Radio Frequencies: Licensing

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2000 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125611]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Supermarkets: Codes of Practice

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Undertakings on Supermarket/Supplier Relations (Code of Practice) to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125618]

Mr. McCartney: The information is as follows.

(a)(i) and (ii) No assessment of the one-off cost of implementing the Undertakings on Supermarket/ Supplier Relations (Code of Practice) has been made. However, consultation on the remedies suggested by the Competition Commission in its 2000 monopoly report on the grocery market and subsequent negotiation of the supermarkets code of practice was a significant project for OFT and DTI lasting some 18 months. Considerably more resources were employed on this project than was normal for the creation of monopoly remedies, given the size and importance of the market and the complexity of the issues involved.

(b)(i) No assessment of the recurring cost to business of implementing the undertakings has been made.

(b)(ii) The undertakings are monitored and enforced by the OFT as part of its function of monitoring, enforcing and reviewing all remedies imposed following Competition Commission inquiries to ensure their continuing effectiveness. The OFT does not keep records or estimates of the costs of monitoring and enforcement of each individual remedy for which it is responsible. However, the supermarkets code and the grocery market generally have accounted for a substantial part of the resources employed in the OFT's work on remedies.

Telephone Services

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the use of 087 and 0845 telephone numbers by businesses; and if he will instruct Ofcom to review the effect of using such numbers on customers. [122280]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 February 2007]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Telephones: Fees and Charges

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what powers Ofcom has to restrict telephone companies' *(a)* prices and *(b)* payment charges. [126572]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many telephone operators in the UK have a Universal Service Obligation (USO); and what restrictions the USO places on the operator's charging and pricing policy. [126573]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* Two UK telephone operators have a Universal Service Obligation (USO); BT and Kingston Communications. USO providers are required to put in place special tariff schemes for vulnerable consumers. Affordability is a key criterion for the approval of such schemes by the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom).

Trade Promotion

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which non-EU countries he has set as priorities for Ministers in his Department to visit to promote trade over the next 12 months. [124786]

Mr. McCartney: Ministers will visit a range of markets for trade promotion purposes over the next 12 months.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which countries Ministers in his Department plan to visit on trade promotion visits between March 2007 and December 2007; which Ministers will visit each; and on what dates the visits are planned. [124810]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* Ministers will visit a range of markets for trade promotion purposes over the next 12 months.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1503W, when she expects the UK-Afghanistan Enduring Relationship Action Plan to be published. [125349]

Margaret Beckett: The official review of the Joint Declaration of an Enduring Relationship between the UK and Afghanistan was agreed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Karzai during President Karzai's recent visit to the UK (14-15 February). I have placed a copy of the review, in the form of the Enduring Relationship Action Plan, in the Library of the House.

Afghanistan: Criminal Code

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made since the April 2002 Geneva conference in establishing a permanent criminal code for Afghanistan. [127073]

Dr. Howells: An interim criminal code for courts in Afghanistan has been in use since 2004. This interim code was developed with the support of the Italian Government, as Afghanistan's partner nation on criminal justice reform.

A draft of the permanent criminal procedure code has now been drawn up by the Afghan Government and it is anticipated that it will go before Parliament by mid-2008.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK gives the Government of Afghanistan in identifying areas for possible poppy crop eradication as referred to in the answer to the question tabled by my hon. Friend the Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) of 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 52W, on Afghanistan; and what criteria are used to determine the suitability of areas for eradication efforts. [127068]

Dr. Howells: The UK helps the Afghan Government co-ordinate eradication to ensure it is targeted in areas with access to alternative legal livelihoods, as set out in the National Drug Control Strategy. Areas identified for eradication are determined by a set of criteria which take into account a wide range of factors. These include: distance to markets, water availability, agricultural diversity, population density, extension of government, access to non-farm income and credit, and activities of development programmes.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support *(a)* the Government and *(b)* British forces in Afghanistan are providing to opium crop eradication activities in Afghanistan in 2007. [127072]

Dr. Howells: The main focus of UK support to the Afghan eradication effort is in identifying poppy fields for destruction. We also provide some financial and logistical support. UK military forces deployed under the International Security Assistance Force contribute to the broader counter-narcotics effort by providing the secure environment in which the rule of law can be applied, reconstruction can take place and legal rural livelihoods can be developed. They are not there to take direct action against the drugs trade and do not eradicate.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK has held discussions with the Government of Iran on counter-narcotic issues in Afghanistan. [127075]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Tehran liaises with the Iranian authorities on counter-narcotics issues, including those relating to Afghanistan. We also maintain contacts with the Iranians on counter-narcotics issues in London and Kabul.

Ministers and officials from the UK and Iran have also attended many multilateral meetings at which Afghan counter-narcotics issues have been discussed, such as the good neighbourly relations declaration ministerial in June 2006.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Cotswold of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1192-3W, on Afghanistan: opium, what reasons were given by the Afghan Government for their decision not to use ground-based spraying on opium poppy crops in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [127074]

Dr. Howells: The Afghan Government made their decision not to conduct ground-based spraying this year following wide consultation and internal discussion, but chose not to make their reasons public. The Afghan Government have expressed their determination to tackle opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan through a variety of means, including by carrying out robust manual and mechanical targeted eradication this year, as set out in the national drug control strategy. If this proves ineffective ground-based spraying will be on the list of options for next year.

Bangladesh: Corruption

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the extended detention of 30 politicians and businessmen in Bangladesh on corruption charges. [126694]

Dr. Howells: We understand that the recent detentions of those suspected of involvement in corruption have been made under the 1974 Special Powers Act, which provides for detention to be extended beyond the initial 30 day limit. While we support the right of the Government of Bangladesh to take legitimate measures against corruption and the abuse of public office, we continue to urge the Government, army and law enforcement agencies to act impartially, with respect for public safety, human rights, media freedoms and the rule of law.

Bosnia: UN

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on the future of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [122952]

Margaret Beckett: The Peace Implementation Council (PIC), on which the UK sits, reviewed its decision to close the Office of the High Representative (OHR) when it met on 26-27 February.

While the security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina remains, and is likely to remain, stable, the UK has been concerned at a recent increase in nationalist politics, including in some cases anti-Dayton political rhetoric. Against the backdrop of the completion of the Kosovo Final Status process, the UK will argue at the PIC that closure of the OHR should be delayed beyond June 2007 to ensure the international community's capacity to safeguard progress in Bosnia-Herzegovina and assist its further political development.

China: Censorship

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the decision by the Chinese Government to restrict the number of internet outlets. [126709]

Mr. McCartney: We are aware of the Chinese Government's announcement that they intend to restrict the number of new internet cafes and bars opening this year. We are concerned by any measures that could further limit freedom of information in China. We raised our concerns about restrictions on access to information at the recent UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 5 February.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of people using the internet in China over the last two years; and what her assessment is of the level of restrictions placed on internet users in China. [126710]

Mr. McCartney: We estimate that there are more than 130 million internet users in China (9 per cent. of all Chinese), an increase of £36 million since 2004. We are concerned by China's continued restrictive regime on access to information, including the blocking of websites and tighter controls on blogs and search engines. We raised our concerns most recently at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 5 February.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Asylum

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Congolese authorities on the removal of failed asylum seekers from the UK to the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if she will make a statement. [126120]

Mr. McCartney: Officials from our embassy in Kinshasa and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London have frequent discussions with their Congolese counterparts both in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and London about the removal of failed asylum seekers from the UK. The most recent discussions surrounded the return of 38 Congolese nationals on a charter flight to the DRC on 26 February. These discussions included an assurance from the Congolese Government that returnees would be well treated upon their return and of their continued cooperation for future returns. We also continue to work with the Congolese authorities on encouraging the voluntary return of failed asylum seekers to the DRC.

BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many current security passes to enter her Department's premises have been issued to employees of BAE Systems; and if she will list the BAE Systems employees who hold such passes. [126535]

Mr. Hoon: We have four BAE Systems staff members details registered on our pass system. However, to date, one individual only has been issued with a Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pass. This was a contractor pass issued in January 2007 and allows only limited access to and within our buildings.

We do not provide any personal information relating to individuals who have been issued with FCO passes.

Departments: Travel

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much her Department spent on travel in each year since 1997. [125850]

Mr. Hoon: The following amounts were spent on travel in the UK and overseas by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in each of the last nine financial years, rounded to the nearest £100,000.

	Amount (£ million)
1997-98	31.0
1998-99	30.6
1999-2000	36.0
2000-01	36.3
2001-02	43.1
2002-03	40.2
2003-04	40.4
2004-05	43.0
2005-06	47.8

For an explanation on why expenditure has increased, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1948-49W.

East Timor: Violence

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on recent unrest in Dili; and what action her Department is taking to resolve conflict in East Timor. [126698]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned by the deterioration of the security situation in East Timor and the resulting casualties.

Our Embassy in Jakarta (which covers East Timor), with the assistance of our Honorary Consul in Dili, provides regular reports on developments. We have deployed a team of four officers to Dili, who are assessing the situation on the ground and will ensure that consular arrangements for British nationals are sufficiently rigorous.

During financial year 2005-06 the Government contributed funding of £295,971 through the joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development Global Conflict Prevention Pool to projects with the objective of supporting conflict reduction in East Timor. We continue to contribute to projects supporting the development of a democratic society and human rights training through our Embassy in Jakarta's bilateral programme for East Timor.

The UK has played a key role in the UN Security Council to ensure a robust UN Mission is in place in East Timor which focuses on areas of potential instability and conflict. We urge all concerned to bring an end to the violence and resolve the problems within the framework of the constitution and laws.

European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Government plans to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. [126853]

Dr. Howells: On 22 January my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced the UK's intention to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. The UK is currently examining how to implement the convention and cannot give a specific date for signature. However, having signalled our intention to sign we are now committed to implementing the convention and putting in place a framework which will provide real protection and support to all victims of trafficking.

India: Pakistan

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the inaugural joint panel to combat terrorism between India and Pakistan; and what assessment she has made of *(a)* India and *(b)* Pakistan's internal efforts to combat religious extremism. [126695]

Dr. Howells: We welcome the establishment of the Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism between India and Pakistan and see this as a positive development towards regional security in South Asia. Both sides have expressed their determination to counter terrorism and extremism. Both countries have agreed that specific information will be exchanged to hold investigations related to terrorist acts and to prevent violence and terrorist acts in these countries.

We also welcome the work that both countries currently undertake to combat religious extremism. We work closely with both the Governments of India and Pakistan to counter the threat from international terrorism and the extremism that fuels terrorism.

International Whaling Commission

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to encourage EU countries that are not members of the International Whaling

Commission and potential accession states to join the International Whaling Commission. [125540]

Margaret Beckett: Since the last meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in June 2006, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts in Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have made representations to host Governments, encouraging them to join the IWC and vote in favour of maintaining the world-wide moratorium on commercial whaling.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe raised the matter with the Foreign Minister of Andorra in October 2006.

The FCO has distributed copies of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs publication 'Protecting Whales - A Global Responsibility' to 57 countries, including all potential EU candidates.

Croatia and Cyprus have now joined the IWC. Estonia, Greece, Latvia and Romania have committed themselves to joining as soon as domestic legislative procedures allow.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Minister for Europe has had with the Foreign Ministers of *(a)* Montenegro and *(b)* Liechtenstein on their countries' possible membership of the International Whaling Commission; and if she will make a statement. [125968]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe has had no such discussions.

Our embassy in Berne raised the subject of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) membership with the Government of Liechtenstein in September 2006. The response was that Liechtenstein's limited administrative capacity made IWC membership unfeasible.

Our ambassador in Podgorica raised the subject of IWC membership with the Government of Montenegro on 27 February. The Montenegrin Government are considering the matter.

Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 470-72W, on Iran, what the terms of the flexibility about the modalities for opening negotiations were that Dr. Solana presented on behalf of the E3+3 during the 6th June 2006 and September 2006 discussions with Dr Larijani. [123866]

Margaret Beckett: In his contacts with Dr. Larijani in June and September 2006, Dr. Solana explained that in order for negotiations to begin on the proposals of the E3+3 (France, Germany, UK + China, Russia, US), Iran would need to address the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors and the United Nations Security Council. These include the Security Council's legally binding requirement that Iran should suspend all uranium enrichment related and reprocessing activities. Dr. Solana explained that if Iran did so, we would be prepared to suspend further action against Iran in the Security Council. He indicated that the E3+3 might be prepared to be flexible about the timing and format of any meetings, if Iran was prepared to comply with its obligations. With our support, Dr. Solana is continuing his efforts to encourage Iran back into negotiations and details of his conversations with Dr. Larijani therefore remain confidential.

Iran: EC Action

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her European counterparts on the imposition of additional EU financial measures against Iran; and if she will make a statement. [124845]

Margaret Beckett: EU Foreign Ministers discussed the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1737 at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 22 January. They agreed that the EU should implement the measures in the Resolution, including the financial measures, robustly and effectively. A common position reflecting their decisions was adopted on 27 February; an accompanying EC regulation is being finalised. As well as freezing the assets of entities listed by the Security Council, the EU will be able to freeze the assets of other individuals and entities who meet the criteria set out by the Security Council, namely individuals and entities engaged in, directly involved with or providing support for Iran's proliferation of sensitive nuclear activities and the development of nuclear weapons delivery systems.

Iran: Hezbollah

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to prevent the flow of funds provided to Hezbollah by Iran. [123983]

Margaret Beckett: We remain deeply concerned that Iran continues to finance groups undermining peace in the middle east, including Lebanese Hezbollah. Lebanese Hezbollah's External Security Organisation (ESO) is proscribed in the UK under the Terrorism Act 2000. ESO is also on the list of terrorist organisations subject to an EU-wide assets freeze. We will have no hesitation in taking robust action against any individual or entity in the UK found to be financing ESO or any other proscribed group.

Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who she plans to attend the expanded neighbours meeting in Baghdad on 10 March on behalf of the UK; and if she will make a statement. [125340]

Margaret Beckett: We welcome the plans of the Government of Iraq to hold a number of expanded regional neighbours meetings and look forward to playing our part in making them a success. The UK has consistently called for Iraq's neighbours to support the efforts of the Government of Iraq to deliver security, stability and development for the Iraqi people.

We were in close touch with the Government of Iraq and other partners about the appropriate level of attendance on 10 March. This meeting was at senior official rather than ministerial level, and may form part of preparation for a later ministerial event, possibly in April. We were represented by our ambassador in Baghdad and a senior official from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the implementation of the Baghdad security plan on the security situation in Basra. [124848]

Margaret Beckett: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear to the House on 21 February, we welcome the Iraqi-led Baghdad security plan, and recognise the critical importance of security in the capital to the future of the country, *Official Report*, columns 262-63. It is too soon to judge the plan's impact, though some of the early indications of the performance of the Iraqi security forces are encouraging. Thus far, we do not believe the plan has had any direct impact on the security situation in Basra, though naturally we are keeping this under close review.

Kosovo

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the security situation in Kosovo; and what assessment she has made of the events there of 11 February 2007. [122954]

Margaret Beckett: The United Kingdom offers its sincere condolences to the families who lost loved ones following the violent demonstrations in Pristina on 10 February [not 11 February]. We respect and defend the right to peaceful protest. But there is no place in Kosovo, now or in the future, for violence as a means to secure political objectives. Those who resort to or incite violence jeopardise Kosovo's stable future and damage their own cause in the eyes of world opinion.

The security situation in Kosovo remains calm but tense. We call on the parties to engage constructively during UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari's phase of consultation.

Lebanon

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in establishing a Special Tribunal for Lebanon; when the tribunal is expected to begin its work; and if she will make a statement. [124846]

Margaret Beckett: Following approval by the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary-General's Personal Representative passed the draft text of the statute on the establishment of a Special Tribunal for Lebanon to the Lebanese authorities on 10 November 2006 for their agreement.

However, on 11 November 2006, Hezbollah and its allies withdrew from the Lebanese Cabinet. Nevertheless, on Saturday 25 November the Cabinet, minus Hezbollah and its allies, went on to approve the draft statute. The statute is now awaiting parliamentary approval; although, in the context of the current Lebanese political impasse it is unclear if and when this will happen. As such, we cannot estimate when the tribunal will begin its work.

Libyan Arab Republic

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she plans to invite the President of Libya to visit the UK. [126999]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to invite Colonel Qadhafi to visit the UK. However, the UK welcomes the progress that Libya has made since its historic decision to renounce weapons of mass destruction. We are increasing co-operation, including through the exchange of high-level visits that began with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's visit to Libya in March 2004 and has included a visit to Libya by my right hon. Friend, the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke), the then Home Secretary in 2006.

Libyan Arab Republic: Exports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value of British exports to Libya was in 2006. [127000]

Dr. Howells: Total exports from the UK to Libya in 2006 were £203 million.

Malta: Illegal Immigrants

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government are providing to Malta to help tackle illegal immigration from Africa to the island. [126983]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are working closely with the Maltese authorities to help tackle illegal immigration. We are doing so both bilaterally and through the EU. Last year we sent a Home Office expert on interviewing and nationality identification to Malta for one month, to form part of the EU Border Management Agency FRONTEX-led mission. We also deployed an expert official on returns from the Special Operations Unit within the Home Office, to look at ways of improving Malta's returns programme.

At present, we have two joint proposals for funding being considered by the European Commission. The first focuses on a joint charter flight to send failed asylum seekers from the UK and Malta back to their country of origin. The second, a proposal to establish a joint unit of migration intelligence analysts on Lampedusa and Malta, is part of our wider work to disrupt irregular migration flows from East Africa to the EU under the East African Migration Routes Initiative.

Marie Therese Nlandu

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she made to the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the treatment in detention of Marie Therese Nlandu. [126713]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are closely following the continued detention of Mme Nlandu. Our ambassador in Kinshasa has raised the case of Mme Nlandu on several occasions with Congolese Ministers, the Congolese Interior Minister and President Kabila's advisers. He raised the case with President Kabila himself on 2 February. Embassy officials in Kinshasa have also been present during some of her appearances in court and visited her in prison on 16 February. We will continue to monitor her situation and treatment closely. International partners are doing the same.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 15th January from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr M. G. Atiq. [124056]

Margaret Beckett: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 26 February.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Government of Israel on its recent operations in Nablus and the curfew it has imposed on the residents of Nablus. [125234]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned by the impact of Israel's military operations in the occupied Palestinian territories. Israel, like all states, has the right to defend itself against terrorism, which the UK condemns absolutely. However, Israel must ensure that its actions comply with international humanitarian law, and minimise the impact on civilians. Our embassy in Tel Aviv raised our concerns regarding the impact of the military incursion in Nablus with the Israeli Defence Force on 8 March.

Nepal

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the Government of Nepal on human rights. [126269]

Dr. Howells: During my visit to Nepal in September last year, I stressed the need for the Government of Nepal to address the question of impunity which has done so much to undermine public confidence in the state security system. We also continue to work with the EU, other international partners and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase awareness of human rights violations in Nepal and urge the Government of Nepal and Maoists to meet their commitments to uphold human rights standards.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of ethnic minority rights in Nepal. [126270]

Dr. Howells: The question of ethnic minority rights in Nepal has come to the fore recently in the form of disturbances and protests in the Terai region. We have called for all parties in the interim Parliament to acknowledge the rights of ethnic minority groups and have stressed the need for greater inclusion, not only in the political process, but in society as a whole. The comprehensive peace agreement has done much to raise the expectations of a number of disenfranchised groups in Nepal. It is important that the coming interim Government ensure that ethnic minority rights are addressed urgently. Failure to do so risks undermining the peace process as Nepal moves towards elections to a constituent assembly in June.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the level of women's rights in Nepal. [126273]

Dr. Howells: In April 2006, Nepal had its second 'people's movement' against the autocratic rule of the King. Women played a significant part, coming onto the streets in huge numbers to demand a more inclusive democratic system of government. Their protests did much to ensure that gender equality and justice were placed on the national agenda. This new emphasis on equal rights resulted in the passage of legislation which requires 33 per cent. of women's representation at all levels of the state structure and, for the first time, allowed for the right to citizenship to be passed on through the mother not just the father.

But the inclusion of women in society remains largely cosmetic. The current Government, due to be replaced by an interim Government in the coming weeks, have only one female Minister. Although the interim Parliament formed in January has an increased number of women, this is largely due to the Maoists who fielded women for 37 per cent. of their 83 seats. Moreover, although the interim constitution notes the inclusion of traditionally marginalised groups such as women, it remains to be seen whether the constituent assembly elections will include the 33 per cent. of women candidates required by legislation.

Discrimination in Nepal is rooted in culture and religion and while legislation can make it unlawful, it will take a long time to change attitudes and perceptions. A huge cultural shift is required if women in Nepal are to participate in the peace process and play a significant part in the constituent assembly. In addition, structural changes in society are necessary in which poverty and the education of women need to be addressed.

If Nepal is to continue to move towards a peaceful future, it is vital that the rights of women and other minority groups are addressed. We will continue to work with our international partners and women's groups in Nepal to uphold their rights.

Through our embassy in Kathmandu, and the office of the Department for International Development, we have pressed high level politicians to include women as an integral part of the peace process. We will continue to encourage and enable meaningful representation and participation of women in all aspects of the peace process. The UK-drafted Security Council on Nepal (UN Security Resolution 1740) contains a specific reference to the need to pay special attention to the rights of women in the development of a democratic new Nepal.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the political situation in Nepal. [126274]

Dr. Howells: The Nepalese Government and people are to be congratulated on the progress made so far in the peace process. In less than a year, Prime Minister Koirala and the alliance of seven democratic parties has signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement with Maoists, drafted and agreed an interim constitution, formed an interim Parliament including 83 nominated Maoist MPs and secured a UN Security Council Resolution providing for a UN Mission to monitor weapons and combatants and provide technical assistance to the election process.

However, the process remains fragile and will require commitment from all parties as well as the support of the international community to continue to make progress towards free and fair elections to a constituent assembly in June.

Peace in Nepal though has raised the expectations of ethnic and other minority groups who have long pressed for greater representation in Parliament. A failure to address these demands has led recently to violent disturbances, particularly in the Terai region where members of the Madhesi community are demanding proportional representation, a federal system of Government and a greater voice in the interim Parliament.

Elections will be key to sustaining the momentum and giving voice to the marginalised. But there is a fine balance between the political imperative of rushing them through quickly and the risk of their being flawed so that the results carry no legitimacy.

Another area of concern is the behaviour of the Maoists, who have yet to meet fully their obligations under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Intimidation and extortion remain commonplace. It will be vital for Maoists to take seriously their responsibilities as they come into the interim Government, end abuses, support the rule of law and work to deliver services through the state system rather than parallel systems of their own.

The UK has played a leading role in supporting the peace process. The long-standing relationship we enjoy with Nepal has allowed us to provide views and guidance which are welcomed. We will continue to work, with the EU and other international partners to help Nepal progress further towards a sustainable and peaceful future.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of human rights in Nepal. [126275]

Dr. Howells: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in November last year includes extensive human rights provisions. All parties are bound by the CPA to co-operate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Despite this unequivocal language, the Maoists, the Nepal army and the Government have failed to co-operate fully with the OHCHR.

With Maoist combatants in cantonment sites and Nepal Army soldiers largely confined to barracks, human rights violations have decreased since the ceasefire. However, there are still regular reports of incidents of Maoist intimidation and extortion and the Government of Nepal have yet to establish rule of law throughout all areas of the country.

We are concerned about the human rights situation in Nepal and in particular reports that a number of human rights defenders, members of civil society and the media regularly face threats and intimidation. We have urged all sides in the peace process to allow human rights organisations to carry out their work free from intimidation and interference.

We have also pressed the Government of Nepal and Maoists to take urgent steps to tackle impunity. The lack of a credible Government response to the question of impunity risks undermining the peace process and decreases public confidence in the state security system. In the run-up to elections to a constituent assembly, it is vital that the Government and Maoists work hard to create an environment that will enable all political parties to campaign and voters to cast their ballots in a free and fair atmosphere.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the proposals for the scheduled elections in Nepal; and what *(a)* discussions she has had with and *(b)* information she has received from the UN on the prospects for the elections. [126809]

Dr. Howells: Elections to the constituent assembly are scheduled for June 2007. Credible, free and fair elections will be key to sustaining the momentum of the current peace process as well as giving a voice to marginalised groups in Nepal. But it is vital that conditions are right for holding the elections. There needs to be proper preparation for the elections including voter education and there needs to be an environment that allows all democratic political parties to campaign freely and people to vote without fear. A flawed election will serve no-one's interests.

The Election Commission, supported by the UN election team, has made good progress. The registration of voters is almost complete (the overall increase in the voters list is estimated at around 20 per cent.) and almost all the 25 UN Electoral Advisers are now in Nepal. Through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Conflict Prevention Pool, we have committed funds directly to the Election Commission to assist in their preparations.

However, the Election Commissioner has recently declared that he is unable to make progress on preparations for the elections until the necessary legislation has been passed. This requires decisions in

the Parliament on the type of voting system necessary and appropriate. At a press conference in New York on 26 February, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ian Martin, said that the Election Commission faced considerable challenges if an election is to take place in June (further information on the press conference can be found on the UN website at:

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusnewsnepal.asp?sID=36.

I discussed the prospects for elections with Ian Martin when we met on 5 March during his visit to London. I reassured him of the UK's support for the peace process in Nepal and our wish to see free and fair elections which should lead to a fully inclusive and democratic constituent assembly.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the living conditions of Maoist rebels in Nepalese rehabilitation cantonments; and what impact she expects the departure of rebels from camps to have on the 2006 ceasefire between rebels and the Nepalese Government. [126806]

Dr. Howells: Under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of November 2006, the Maoists agreed that their People's Liberation Army (PLA) would be confined to seven main cantonment sites, spread across Nepal, while the Nepal army would be confined to barracks. Maoist weapons would be stored in sealed containers, to which they would keep the keys, but the UN would monitor the integrity of the containers and the confinement of combatants to the camps. Maoists moved the PLA and their weapons to the proposed cantonment sites almost immediately and the UN has moved quickly to complete the registration of combatants and storage of weapons.

The CPA required the Government of Nepal to provide the infrastructure of the camps and to ensure that combatants were given adequate shelter and provisions. However, this process has been slow and, in the early days, international donors provided some assistance (the Department for International Development provided practical support on the provision of water and sanitation for the camps and the Indian Government provided tents to house the PLA and containers to store the weapons).

Recently, we received reports that a number of former PLA combatants had temporarily left the Shaktikhor cantonment site in Chitwan complaining that the Government of Nepal were failing to provide sufficient food and water to the camps. However, their weapons remained under UN supervision. The question of Maoists leaving cantonment sites was reported to, and discussed by, the Joint Monitoring Co-ordinating Committee, chaired by the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) on 22 February. UNMIN had previously expressed its concern to the Government of Nepal about the living conditions at the cantonment sites and had called on the Government and Maoists to work together to make immediate arrangements to improve these conditions.

We were concerned at reports that former members of the PLA had left the cantonment site, in a clear breach of the Agreement on Monitoring of Arms and Armies of 8 December 2006. However, it is important to note that weapons storage and monitoring remained in place and that all sides to the agreement worked closely to ensure that combatants returned quickly to the cantonment site following the intervention of the Maoist leadership and a commitment from the Government of Nepal to meet their demands on funding, provisions and camp infrastructure.

We are confident that this incident will not affect the positive progress of the ongoing peace process in Nepal.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what effect suspension of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear activity she expects to have on British interests in *(a)* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and *(b)* the Republic of Korea. [124700]

Mr. McCartney: We welcome the 13 February Agreement and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's commitment to suspend nuclear activities. This is an essential first step towards the goal of full denuclearisation in North Korea and towards ensuring stability in the Korean Peninsula, which is clearly in UK interests.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of blasphemy trials taking place in Pakistan. [127141]

Dr. Howells: We follow closely the subject of blasphemy trials in Pakistan. Officials receive reports on blasphemy trials from human rights groups and monitor cases reported in the media.

Together with EU partners, we regularly raise our concerns about blasphemy legislation and its frequent abuse with the Government of Pakistan. My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Trade, most recently raised this issue in correspondence with the Government of Pakistan in February.

Pakistan: Land Mines

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Pakistan on the proposal to land-mine parts of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. [127071]

Dr. Howells: The subject was discussed when my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met President Musharraf in Pakistan on 19 November 2006. We recognise the efforts being made by Pakistan to curb cross-border infiltration on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and its commitment to continue this work, but urge Pakistan to find solutions with less destructive long-term humanitarian consequences. We note that President Musharraf announced on 2 February that he has decided for the time being not to mine the border.

Saudi Arabia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Foreign Office Ministers visited Saudi Arabia in 2006; and whom they met. [126994]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House the then Foreign Secretary, visited Saudi Arabia in April 2006.

He had substantive meetings with Prince Saud al-Faisal (Foreign Minister), Crown Prince Sultan and Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid (President of the Majlis al Shura).

Security Guards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has for the regulation of private military and security companies based in the United Kingdom. [127017]

Dr. Howells: In late 2004 my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House the then Foreign requested a review by officials of the options for the regulation of the overseas operations of private military and security companies (PMSCs) registered in or operating from the United Kingdom. This was to follow up on the Green Paper of 2002, 'Private Military Companies: Options for Regulation' and to respond to the increase in the activities of PMSCs in areas of conflict overseas. The review highlighted complex issues which need full consideration before a decision is taken on the way forward. The Government will keep the House fully informed of their proposals in this area.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to the United Nations on resolving the on-going conflict in Somalia; and what estimate she has made of the impact this conflict has had on the numbers of people seeking asylum from that country within the United Kingdom. [125844]

Mr. McCartney: The UK, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and our missions in New York, Nairobi and Addis Ababa, is in frequent contact with the UN and related bodies about the situation in Somalia. In particular, we are stressing to the UN and other key members of the international community the historic opportunity we have to bring stability to Somalia.

We continue to monitor closely the security situation, particularly in and around Mogadishu. We do not have figures for Somalis seeking asylum in the UK as a direct result of the current situation, but note that a major deterioration in security could cause people to leave their country and seek to claim asylum elsewhere. Therefore, we are working for an effective deployment of African Union troops in conjunction with a successful National Reconciliation Congress that brings greater inclusivity. The first detachment of Ugandan troops has arrived in Mogadishu. Together, these will help bring stability to Somalia, which we would expect over the longer term to lead to a reduction in asylum seekers.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to the United Nations on resolving the conflict in Sudan; and what estimate she has made of the impact this conflict has had on numbers of people seeking asylum from that country within the United Kingdom. [125845]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has played a leading role in negotiating all the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on Darfur.

Ministers and officials are in constant contact with the UN Secretariat about Darfur. My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, visited New York on 21 February to press the UN for more rapid action on deployment of the African Union/UN hybrid force and for urgent action on the political process.

We believe that the next step is for the UN Security Council to impose tougher measures on the Government of Sudan and rebel groups in view of their failure to co-operate with the UN. We will be pressing the council for the extension of the existing arms embargo and for sanctions on more individuals in accordance with UNSCR 1591 (2005).

The numbers of Sudanese asylum applications received in the UK between 2004 and 2006 have dropped. The total number of applications, excluding dependants, at the height of the Darfur conflict in 2004 was 1,305; in 2005 the figure fell to 885; and in 2006 to 675. The 2005 and 2006 figures are provisional.

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of Syrian co-operation with the International Independent Investigation Commission established pursuant to Security Council Resolutions 1559 (2005), 1636 (2005) and 1644 (2005). [124847]

Margaret Beckett: The International Independent Investigation Commission produces quarterly reports on the progress of the investigations including on how Syria is co-operating with the Commission. The most recent report, dated 12 December 2006, stated that the co-operation of Syria with the Commission was timely and efficient. Earlier reports had highlighted difficulties with Syrian co-operation.

The UK continues to insist on Syria's "full and unconditional" co-operation as called for in Security Council Resolution 1559.

Timor-Leste

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 21W, on Timor-Leste, if she will urge the UN Secretary-General to place the final report from the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor on the agenda of a meeting of the Security Council. [125259]

Mr. McCartney: The CAVR Commission for Truth and Reconciliation was appointed by the then UN Transitional Administration in East Timor at the urging of the National Council of Timorese resistence, a representative East Timorese political body. Its report was delivered to East Timorese President Gusmao in October 2005, who subsequently presented its findings to the Timorese Parliament. The report has not yet been discussed by the East Timorese Parliament. However, in addressing the UN Security Council on 23 January 2006 President Gusmao expressed caution about the recommendations contained in the report, noting the need to achieve restorative justice rather than punitive justice and warning of the need to consolidate democracy in East Timor and Indonesia. In the absence of further interventions by the East Timorese Government and Parliament, we do not believe it will serve the interests of the people of East Timor for the United Kingdom to call for the report to be placed on the agenda of the UN Security Council at this stage.

Turkey

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will invite the President of Turkey to make a state visit to the UK. [126970]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have no current plans to invite the President of Turkey to make a state visit to the UK.

The UK values extremely highly our relationship with Turkey. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary and I all visited Turkey in 2006, and the Turkish Foreign Minister met my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I in London in July. Other ministerial bilaterals take place regularly.

Turkey: EC Enlargement

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking in relation to progress on Turkey's membership of the European Union. [126991]

Mr. Hoon: The Government strongly support Turkey's objective of EU accession and welcomed the agreement at the December 2006 General Affairs and External Relations Council that negotiations should continue. As well as working for sustained progress towards this goal, the Government are also providing practical assistance. Under the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund—Reuniting Europe programme, we funded projects valued at over £800,000 in 2006-07, including on political reform, the justice system and human rights.

Congressional UK Caucus

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding her Department plans to allocate to support events undertaken together with the Congressional UK caucus in the United States. [126185]

Mr. McCartney: There are no plans to allocate funding on a formal basis. However, our embassy in Washington does, from time to time, host events in conjunction with the caucus on the occasion of ministerial or parliamentary visits.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many complaints have been received by his Department since its establishment. [121707]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff work in dedicated complaints units in his Department. [121709]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 109W.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many work permits were applied for by his Department since its inception. [126798]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None.

Policy Review Working Group

Mr. Francois: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what date he last attended the Policy Review Working Group on *(a)* Britain and the World, *(b)* Environment and Energy, *(c)* Public Services, *(d)* the Role of the State and *(e)* Crime and Security. [115393]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Details of the membership of Policy Review Working Groups and related Cabinet Committee business are available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/economic_and_domestic/policy_review/index.asp

and copies have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members. There are no non-ministerial members of the working groups.

Further information about the deliberations of the working groups and the other work strands supporting the policy review, including the citizen's forums, have now been published on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/policy_review/index.asp

and copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

More detailed information relating to the proceedings of working groups, including when and how often they meet and who attends any particular meeting, is generally not disclosed, as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

11 Downing Street

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1009W, on 10 Downing street: repairs and maintenance, how much was spent on the refurbishment and maintenance of *(a)* the Downing street offices and *(b)* the 11 Downing street flat in each year since 1997-98. [124548]

Hilary Armstrong: The Downing street complex is maintained to standards appropriate to its Grade 1/2 listed status in consultation with English Heritage. In addition to providing office accommodation the building also fulfils an important representational role. For details of the total costs of refurbishment, maintenance and structural improvements between 2002-03 and 2004-5, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer the Prime Minister gave the hon. Member for Bridgwater (Mr. Liddell-Grainger) on 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2393W. The cost of refurbishment, maintenance and structural improvements for 2005-6 was £306,222. This expenditure was to maintain the fixed assets, plant and machinery, the fabric of the building, floors, walls and ceilings and the upkeep and repair of heritage assets, and to ensure a safe working environment for staff and visitors. For details of maintenance, decorating and otherwise improving 10 and 11 Downing street for before 2002-03, I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minister gave the hon. Member for Southend West (Mr. Amess) on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1937W.

For details of routine maintenance on the flat above 11 Downing street, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer the Prime Minister gave the hon. Member on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1808W.

For details of expenditure on work to the flat above No. 11 Downing street in previous years, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers the Prime Minister gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 10 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1836-37W, and 11 October 2004, *Official Report*, column 54W.

Cabinet Office: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether her Department provided funding for the parliamentary reception for the charity "v" in February 2007. [126592]

Edward Miliband: The parliamentary reception was hosted by my hon. Friend the Member for High Peak (Tom Levitt) in his role as chair of the All-Party Group on the Community and Voluntary Sector. The reception was funded by the charity from within their existing budgets.

Information: Training

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* presentation and *(b)* handouts produced for her Department's seminar on information sharing on 7 February 2007. [124358]

Hilary Armstrong: I will place in the Library copies of the presentations delivered to and circulated at "The Power of Information" seminar held on 7 February 2007 as part of the Policy Review work.

TREASURY

Broadband

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Wifi spectrum is planned to be auctioned; and which parts of spectrum will be available. [123000]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost to the public purse was of the event held at No. 11 Downing Street on 26 February for film makers. [125757]

John Healey: No cost was incurred.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's total expenditure on preparations for potential UK entry to the euro was in each year since 1997. [126766]

Ed Balls: Since December 1997, the Euro Preparations Unit in the Treasury has worked with stakeholders from across the economy to ensure that euro preparations are at an appropriate level. The costs of the Euro Preparations Unit are met from within the Treasury's departmental expenditure limit.

Job Creation: Environment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that could be created in the environmental technology sector in each of the next five years. [125935]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The UK environmental goods and services industry is strong, well established and diverse, employing approximately 400,000 people in around 17,000 companies, with an estimated annual turnover of £25 billion. A joint DTI/Defra report published in November 2006 estimated that this turnover would increase to more than £34 billion by 2010 and £46 billion by 2015. Although the Government have not produced forecasts for employment in each of the next five years, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has estimated that over 100,000 new jobs could be created in the sector over the next 10 years.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to reply to the letter of 22 January from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss M. Griffin. [127279]

Dawn Primarolo: I have replied to my right hon. Friend.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the process was by which the Olympics budget as it appeared in the London 2012 Candidate File was agreed. [125377]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

Co-ordinated by London 2012 Ltd., the London 2012 Candidate File was agreed by Government and all other Olympic stakeholders including the Greater London Authority and the British Olympic Association in October 2004.

Unemployment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many economically inactive people of working age there were in the UK aged *(a)* 18 to 24, *(b)* 25 to 49 and *(c)* 50 years and over and were neither (i) disabled and (ii) a lone parent in each month since 1992. [125895]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many economically inactive people of working age there were in the UK who were aged *(a)* 18 to 24, *(b)* 25 to 49 and *(c)* over 50 years and over and were neither (i) disabled and (ii) a lone parent in each month since 1992. (125895)

The following table gives estimates of the total number of inactive people of working age, together with estimates of inactive people after excluding those who were either lone parents or disabled, by age, in each year for which data are available since 1999. Comparable estimates are not available for 2000, or for earlier periods. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted. Data is only available for the April-June quarter of each of these years.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Economically inactive people of working age[1] United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	All of working age		*16 to17*		*18 to 24*		*25 to 49*		*50 and over*	
	All inactive	*Excluding lone parents and disabled[2] people*	*All inactive*	*Excluding lone parents and disabled[2] people*	*All inactive*	*Excluding lone parents and disabled[2] people*	*All inactive*	*Excluding lone parents and disabled[2] people*	*All inactive*	*Excluding lone parents and disabled[2] people*
1999	7,355	3,595	613	427	1,159	838	3,059	1,429	2,523	901
2001	7,455	3,573	679	473	1,144	815	3,068	1,395	2,563	890
2002	7,495	3,612	732	494	1,175	839	3,040	1,397	2,549	882
2003	6,797	3,288	657	437	1,138	804	2,797	1,298	2,204	750
2004	7,551	3,661	771	512	1,244	870	3,074	1,432	2,462	846
2005	7,540	3,683	783	518	1,293	896	3,033	1,405	2,431	864
2006	7,401	3,627	842	557	1,255	864	2,912	1,378	2,391	827

[1] 16 to 64 for men and 16 to 59 for women.
[2] Includes those who have a long term disability which substantially limits their day-to-day activities and those who have a long term disability which affects the kind or amount of work they might do.
Note: Comparable data are not available for 2000.
Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (Household datasets)

HOME DEPARTMENT

Assaults on Police

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions were carried out following assaults on serving police officers in each of the last three years. [124280]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of assaulting a constable in England and Wales, 2003 to 2005, is shown in the following table.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of assaulting a constable in England and Wales, 2003 to 2005[1,2]

Offence description	*Assault on a constable*
2003	18,274
2004	19,876
2005	20,074

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Bail: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Lancashire have broken the terms of their bail conditions in each of the last five years. [125550]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows prosecutions and convictions in the Lancashire police force area from 2001 to 2005 for the offence "Failing to surrender to bail". Data are not collected centrally on other breeches of bail condition.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of "Failing to surrender to bail" in the Lancashire police force area, 2001 to 2005[1,2]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2001	2,047	741
2002	2,604	1,008
2003	2,793	1,117
2004	2,515	1,011
2005	2,879	1,149

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Children: Abuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of levels of under-reporting of childhood sexual abuse. [126298]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not recently conducted or commissioned any research with regard to the under-reporting of childhood sexual abuse.

Community Policing: Lincolnshire

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what programmes on community safety have been funded by his Department in North Lincolnshire in each year since 1996; and what the cost was of each such programme. [122790]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

North Lincolnshire community safety funding streams

£

Funding programme	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Crime Reduction Programme 2000	134,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	134,000
Safer Communities Initiative	—	—	51,253	—	—	—	—	51,253
Communities Against Drugs	—	132,100	132,100	—	—	—	—	264,200
Partnership Development Funding	10,000	44,000	40,200	—	—	—	—	94,200
Building Safer Communities Fund	—	—	—	278,652	269,417	269,417	—	817,486
Recovered Assets Funding	—	—	—	28,000	—	—	—	28,000
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	287,014	287,014
Home Office Regional Directors Fund	—	—	—	—	25,000	25,000	—	50,000
Basic Command Unit—Police	—	—	—	167,448	167,448	167,448	167,448	669,792
Total	144,000	176,100	223,553	474,100	461,865	461,865	454,462	2,395,945

Notes:
1. The data only dates back to 2000 when the Home Office regional presence was established.
2. The data only refers to funds handled locally and not to the major policing budgets administered through the Home Office.
3. Other departmental funding such as Neighbourhood Renewal administered by CLG have not been included. However it can be assumed some elements of this funding have contributed towards community safety e.g. wardens.

Source:
Govt Office for Yorkshire and the Humber.

Crime: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal offences in Bedfordshire resulted in the conviction of the offender in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [124512]

Mr. McNulty: Information from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all offences in Bedfordshire police force area for the years requested is provided in the table.

Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Number of defendants found guilty for all offences in Bedfordshire police force area, 1997-2005[1,2]

	Found guilty
1997	15,020
1998	16,215
1999	12,926
2000	13,000
2001	12,205
2002	12,901
2003	15,342

Number of defendants found guilty for all offences in Bedfordshire police force area, 1997-2005[1,2]

	Found guilty
2004	14,037
2005	17,321

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total expenditure for visits, other activities and commitments outside the UK undertaken by his Department's Ministers and officials was in each of the last three years. [123682]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's expenditure on foreign travel and accommodation in each of the last three years was:

	Travel	Accommodation	£ Total
2003-04	4,447,233	—	4,447,233
2004-05	5,472,578	6,583,194	12,055,772
2005-06	6,881,152	3,775,458	10,656,610

Separate records were not kept of foreign accommodation costs in 2003-04 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The difference in costs over the period reflects the changing nature of the Home Office's business, in particular the growth of international terrorism, migration and international travel. Collaboration and information exchange with other countries on counter-terrorism activities and border control have become increasingly critical to the effective discharge of the Department's responsibilities for asylum, immigration and national security. This has involved higher levels of overseas travel.

For ministerial foreign travel, which is included in the above, I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1808W.

The Department incurs additional expenditure outside the UK, in connection with border control, international crime and anti-terrorism responsibilities. Details of this expenditure could only be identified from within records of total operational spend at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Money Laundering

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1748W, on drugs: money laundering, what correspondence his Department has received from Michael A. Braun on the Serious Organised Crime Agency and Operation White Dollar; and if he will make a statement. [126751]

Mr. Coaker: None.

Entry Clearances

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Mohammed Reza, Home Office reference R1040509, a constituent of the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, will receive a response to his application for indefinite leave to remain submitted in December 2005. [124765]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 5 March 2007.

Foreign National Prisoners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 106W, on foreign national prisoners, on how many of the foreign prisoners released from HMP Peterborough in the 12 months to 31 March 2006 who were eligible for deportation, the immigration and nationality directorate keeps electronic records; and if he will make a statement; [125273]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of providing information on offences committed by foreign national prisoners discharged from HMP Peterborough in the 12 months to 31 March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [125274]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 5 March 2007]:* The immigration and nationality directorate holds electronic records of all foreign national prisoners who have been notified to IND for consideration of deportation. However, historic data are drawn from a number of manual and electronic sources.

Prisons keep records of foreign nationals released from or transferred across the prison estate. This record does not record the offences committed by individual prisoners. Manually identifying and cross-referencing IND and prison records to provide information on the foreign national prisoners released from HMP Peterborough could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The Home Secretary has identified that there is no unique identifier to link individuals who come into contact with the asylum and immigration and criminal justice systems. We have therefore commenced development of a comprehensive approach to identity management across all Home Office areas.

Heroin

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the possible effects of the prescription of heroin to long-term addicts on the NHS on the levels of crime. [126601]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible currently to estimate the likely effect on crime of heroin prescription to long-term addicts. The current evidence base indicates that heroin prescribing is only suitable in a small number of cases. In the vast majority of cases, it is not a safer or a more effective option than methadone prescribing.

The National Treatment Outcome Research Study (NTORS), the most important UK research on drug treatment, showed that for every £1 spent on treatment, at least £9.50 is saved, mainly in the costs of reduced crime. Thus there are clear economic benefits to treating drug misusers. However, this study provided no information of the relative impact of different types of treatment.

Research is under way to build our knowledge in this area. The Home Office has commissioned the Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study (DTORS) which will evaluate the impact of current drug treatment services on drug and alcohol use, offending, and health and social outcomes. Additionally, Government-funded projects to enhance the evidence base for the clinical use of heroin in drug treatment are currently under way.

Identity Card Scheme

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what progress has been made in tendering the contracts for the *(a)* refurbishment and *(b)* construction of the regional offices required to administer the national identity card scheme; [113898]

(2) what the locations are of the regional offices required to administer the national identity card scheme. [113899]

Joan Ryan: The Identity and Passport Service currently has no plans to set up further regional offices in addition to the current seven regional passport offices, in London, Newport, Peterborough, Glasgow, Durham, Liverpool and Belfast. An expanded local office network is already being put in place in order to meet and interview first-time applicants for passports and to prepare for recording biometrics. This office network consists of 69 offices throughout the UK, in the following proposed locations:

Aberdeen, Aberystwyth, Andover, Armagh, Barnstaple, Belfast, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Birmingham, Blackburn, Boston, Bournemouth, Bristol, Bury St. Edmunds, Camborne, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Coleraine, Crawley, Derby, Dover, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Exeter, Galashiels, Glasgow, Hastings, Hull, Inverness, Ipswich, Kendal, Kilmarnock, Kings Lynn, Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, Liverpool, London, Luton, Maidstone, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Newport, Newport (Isle of Wight), Northallerton, Northampton, Norwich, Oban, Omagh, Oxford, Peterborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Scarborough, Shrewsbury, Sheffield, St. Austell, Stirling, Stoke-on-Trent, Swansea, Swindon, Warwick, Wick, Wrexham, Yeovil and York.

The network will be supplemented by remote interview sites for remote communities, where applicants will conduct their interview by video conferencing. The contract for this office network was awarded in early 2006 to Mapeley, and the offices are currently being leased and fitted out for use by IPS.

These offices will open in 2007 and the network will subsequently be used for the National Identity Scheme. Where the network of enrolment centres needs to be further expanded, we will first seek to use high street offices that are already used by central and local government. We will also look at options for the private sector providing outlets and any contracts will be tendered as appropriate.

Kennett Prison: Manpower

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison officers have been recruited to work at the new prison HMP Kennett in Merseyside. [124410]

John Reid: So far, 30 prison officers have been recruited to work at Kennet prison. Further recruitment is under way.

Migration: Languages

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the compatibility of compulsory English language requirements for migrants with European Union law. [124402]

Mr. Byrne: We are satisfied that the arrangements for requiring applicants for permanent settlement and naturalisation to demonstrate a knowledge of English are fully compatible with European law. The integration of migrants is a matter for member states' competence.

Offenders: Learning Disability

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of prisoners in Lancashire have learning difficulties. [125754]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available centrally. However, a project undertaken by the Dyslexia Institute in Yorkshire and Humberside looked at the incidence of dyslexia and related learning disabilities among the prison population. The findings suggested that 20 per cent. of the prison population have some form of unseen (hidden) disability which will affect and undermine their performance in both education and work settings. A further 32 per cent. of the sample who were given an in-depth assessment had literacy difficulties but did not show positive evidence of the characteristics of dyslexia, dyspraxia or other unseen disabilities.

Office of Surveillance Commissioners

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which public authorities the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners inspects and monitors in respect of *(a)* property interference, *(b)* intrusive surveillance, *(c)* directed surveillance and *(d)* using covert human intelligence sources. [125639]

Mr. McNulty: The public authorities liable to oversight by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners are, in respect of property interference, those authorities with which the authorising officers described in section 93(5) of the Police Act 1997 (as amended) hold positions; in respect of intrusive surveillance, those authorities with which the authorising officers described in section 32(6) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) (as amended) hold positions; in respect of directed surveillance, those public authorities listed in Schedule

1 of RIPA (as amended) and in respect of using covert human intelligence sources, those public authorities listed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of RIPA (as amended).

Police Custody: West Ham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of custody space at police stations in West Ham constituency. [125221]

Mr. McNulty: The provision of custody accommodation in West Ham is a matter for the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police.

Police: Hospitals

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there are on duty in hospitals in Lancashire *(a)* during the day and *(b)* at night. [124975]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the chief constable.

Prison Service: Manpower

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison officers were employed in each prison by HM Prison Service on 31 December *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and what the planned number of officers was in each case. [124826]

John Reid: Information on the number of prison officers, senior officers and principal officers employed and the operational staffing requirement for every Prison Service establishment on 31 December 2005 and 2006 are contained in the following tables.

Number of prison officers, senior officers and principal officers employed and the operational staffing requirement for every Prison Service establishment on 31 December 2005 and 2006

	31 December 2005		31 December 2006	
Public sector establishments	*Full-time equivalent staff in post*	*Operational staffing requirement*	*Full-time equivalent staff in post*	*Operational staffing requirement*
Acklington	218	219	220	222
Albany	148	147	141	145
Ashwell	110	108	102	111
Askham Grange	30	30.6	29	30
Aylesbury	184	192	187	187
Bedford	144	149	140	153
Belmarsh	503	554	506	563
Birmingham	519	531	524	532
Blakenhurst	255	260	255	261
Blantyre House	32	33	31	33
Blundeston	148	150	147	148
Brinsford	235	240	226	238
Bristol	259	276	230	246
Brixton	242	243	221	243
Brockhill	98	96	75	82
Buckley Hall	113	118	105	103
Bullingdon	245	253	240	249
Bullwood Hall	79	90	73	83
Camp Hill	157	155	151	157
Canterbury	104	100	100	103
Cardiff	250	251	243	251
Castington	220	222	217	223
Channings Wood	170	165	161	162
Chelmsford	189	195	209	240
Coldingley	91	95	91	98
Cookham Wood/East Sutton Park	111	115	107	111
Dartmoor	167	166	159	167
Deerbolt	177	183	183	187
Dorchester	110	108	103	108
Dover	105	110	126	132
Downview	133	142	129	137
Drake Hall	90	89	82	86
Durham	311	311	317	330
Eastwood Park	144	154	148	153
Edmunds Hill	123	132	129	132
Elmley	259	257	212	205
Erlestoke	112	120	111	119
Everthorpe	166	157	172	172
Exeter	191	183	183	181
Featherstone	141	145	138	146
Feltham	427	446	418	439
Ford	62	64	63	66
Foston Hall	109	111	132	151
Frankland	583	596	557	602
Full Sutton	483	481	466	483
Garth	230	224	231	222
Gartree	182	191	206	216
Glen Parva	263	270	260	266
Gloucester	121	123	119	123
Grendon	159	162	148	161
Guys Marsh	131	142	136	141
Haslar	50	53	53	55
Haverigg	137	138	127	134
Hewell Grange	29	29	28	28
High Down	223	233	217	218
Highpoint	192	194	185	192
Hindley	223	236	217	226
Hollesley Bay	49	50	52	53
Holloway	281	276	261	275
Holme House	306	311	305	307
Hull	324	327	322	325
Huntercombe	167	169	161	168
Kingston	72	72	74	75
Kirkham	97	98	97	100
Kirklevington Grange	45	45	45	45
Lancaster	87	86	87	89
Lancaster Farms	243	248	247	245
Latchmere House	36	36	36	36
Leeds	407	406	397	403

Number of prison officers, senior officers and principal officers employed and the operational staffing requirement for every Prison Service establishment on 31 December 2005 and 2006

Public sector establishments	31 December 2005		31 December 2006	
	Full-time equivalent staff in post	Operational staffing requirement	Full-time equivalent staff in post	Operational staffing requirement
Leicester	129	141	128	141
Lewes	168	167.5	160	168
Leyhill	71	72	69	74
Lincoln	199	195	189	195
Lindholme	216	218	225	226
Littlehey	157	162	158	160
Liverpool	439	432	419	430
Long Lartin	363	365	370	373
Low Newton	144	149	156	153
Maidstone	151	154	148	159
Manchester	495	516	494	524
Moorland	328	315	326	316
Morton Hall	113	117	115	117
New Hall	215	211	220	216
North Sea Camp	53	52	56	58
Northallerton	61	67	64	67
Norwich	236	238	221	236
Nottingham	212	223	214	228
Onley	189	215	185	211
Parkhurst	187	193	180	185
Pentonville	382	380	391	386
Portland	178	169	185	189
Preston	236	230	249	253
Ranby	279	276	261	272
Reading	117	121	114	117
Risley	285	294	282	293
Rochester	139	140	140	143
Send	81	81	76	83
Shepton Mallet	63	64	62	63
Shrewsbury	114	115	107	115
Stafford	162	153	156	160
Standford Hill	82	82	62	61
Stocken	151	155	149	156
Stoke Heath	247	249	230	243
Styal	187	186	187	190
Sudbury	66	68	68	67
Swaleside	248	251	213	207
Swansea	154	155	153	151
Swinfen Hall	202	212	206	210
The Mount	150	166	154	166
The Verne	116	107	103	107
Thorn Cross	114	114	121	127
Usk/Prescoed	94	90	93	91
Wakefield	404	377	408	443
Wandsworth	395	405	386	404
Warren Hill	152	152	147	151
Wayland	148	157	150	150
Wealstun	198	191	194	194
Weare	29	15	Closed	Closed
Wellingborough	179	181	176	179
Werrington	84	84	82	89
Wetherby	166	178	172	177
Whatton	146	165	198	202
Whitemoor	455	513	467	479
Winchester	214	211	206	214
Woodhill	442	459	433	463
Wormwood Scrubs	323	323	313	321
Wymott	256	260	243	257
Sheppey reducing reoffending (clustered services)	—	—	117	146

Contracted establishments	31 December 2005		31 December 2006	
	Employed	Profiled	Employed	Profiled
Altcourse				
Ashfield	141	152	152	152
Bronzefield	163	160	164	160
Doncaster	249	259	250	256
Dovegate	240	248	244	268
Forest Bank	191	194	196	198
Lowdham Grange	167	169	162	161
Parc	296	308	295	296
Peterborough	266	255	263	274
Rye Hill	133	142	142	148
Wolds	94	92	101	101

Information has not been supplied by HMP Altcourse.

Prisoners: Day Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners on day release. [123787]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of temporary release licenses issued to prisoners in prison establishments within England and Wales can be found in table 10.6 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found within the House of Commons Library. This table can also be found at the following website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section10.xls

It should be noted that the table refers to the number of releases rather than the number of prisoners, so the same prisoner could appear multiple times in the table. Further, the table includes releases that last longer than one day.

These figures are management information and may be subject to change.

Racial Violence: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported racist offences in Lancashire there were in each of the last 10 years. [125746]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the tables.

Racially aggravated offences are available only from the police recorded crime series from 1 April 1999.

Table A: Number of racially aggravated offences recorded for Lancashire police force area, 1999-2000 to 2001-02[1]

Offence	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Racially aggravated less serious wounding	32	52	83
Racially aggravated harassment	71	169	477
Racially aggravated common assault	63	52	134
Racially aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling	19	34	112
Racially aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	18	32	94
Racially aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle	26	41	127
Racially aggravated other criminal damage	3	28	30
Total racially aggravated offences	232	408	1,057

Table B: Number of racially and religiously aggravated offences recorded for Lancashire police force area, 2002-03 to 2004-05[1]

Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	144	138	139
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	405	714	802
Racially or religiously aggravated common assault	58	91	89
Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling	73	38	38
Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	40	45	40
Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle	123	42	54
Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage	17	17	21
Total racially or religiously aggravated offences	860	1,085	1,183

[1] Numbers of recorded crime were affected by changes in reporting and recording following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. These data are therefore not directly comparable with earlier years.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Bill: Parts 1 and 3 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125610]

Mr. McNulty: Chapter I of Part I of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), which provides for the lawful interception of communications, entered into force in October 2000. When the RIP Bill was tabled, its regulatory impact assessment (RIA) estimated, accurately, total compliance costs to business (communications service providers (CSPs)) would not exceed the measure of significance (£20 million) used by the Regulatory Impact Unit of the Cabinet Office.

Chapter II of Part I of RIPA, which provides for the lawful acquisition and disclosure of communications data, entered into force in January 2004. In line with section 24 of RIPA, arrangements are in place for CSPs to recover the costs incurred by them in complying with disclosure required by public authorities. We estimate that in 2005-06 public authorities paid communications service providers less than £20 million for disclosing communications data when required to do so.

Part III of RIPA, which provides for the investigation of protected electronic data, is not yet in force although the Government have completed a public consultation on a draft code of practice which Parliament will be invited to approve shortly. The RIA for the RIP Bill estimated total compliance costs to business relating to Part III were not expected to exceed the measure of significance. That estimate is still valid.

Sexual Offences: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders lived in the Peterborough city council area as at 31 December 2006; and if he will make a statement. [126226]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are not collated on a borough or constituency basis. Data on registered sex offenders are collated at multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) area and police basic command unit (BCU) levels within areas. MAPPA areas are coterminous with police and probation areas. The data are published in (MAPPA) annual reports which are available in the House Libraries and at:

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

The Peterborough city council area is not coterminous with any area or BCU but is covered by the data relating to the Northern BCU area in Cambridgeshire's MAPPA annual report. These data represent the number of registered sex offenders as at 31 March 2006—153 in the Northern BCU.

Theft: Vehicle Number Plates

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many number plate thefts were detected in *(a)* West Ham constituency and *(b)* London in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [125222]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Bailiffs: Licensing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what regulations are in place on the licensing of bailiff operators. [126040]

Ms Harman: Certificated bailiffs are governed by the Distress for Rent Rules 1988 and the Distress for Rent (Amendment) Rules 1999. High Court Enforcement Officers are governed by the High Court Enforcement Officer's Regulations 2004. Activities of County Court bailiffs employed by Her Majesty's Courts Service are regulated by the terms of their contracts of employment. All other private bailiffs are currently self-regulated.

The Tribunals' Courts and Enforcement Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 16 November 2006 and had its Second Reading in the House of Commons on 5 March 2007. The Bill provides for the regulation of all enforcement agents, including bailiffs, who are not Crown employees. They will all have compulsory criminal record checks, all be subject to the same complaints system and all have to hold a certificate issued by a county court judge. In the longer term the Government are proposing that all non-Crown employed enforcement agents be licensed by an independent regulator, the Security Industry Authority.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Francois: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the *(a)* organisations employed by her Department to provide and *(b)* cost to the public purse of providing external consultancy advice on departmental rebranding since December 2006. [125770]

Ms Harman: Part of my Department, the Public Guardianship Office, is using one company called Parity Resourcing Solutions to provide a consultant for implementation of new branding for the PGO.

Costs incurred since December 2006 are £22,325 including VAT.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many submissions her Department received in response to the consultation on the draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007; if she will post all responses on her Department's website; and when the final regulations are expected to be laid before Parliament. [126501]

Vera Baird: My Department has received 182 replies to the consultation on the draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007. The consultation closed on 8 March 2007.

We will publish a summary of the responses to the document in line with the consultation code of practice set out by the Cabinet Office, which will be available on the departmental website.

We will analyse the responses to the consultation exercise before considering laying regulations.

Magistrates: Training

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance and training is given to magistrates and magistrates' clerks on the use of their powers under section 6 of the Immigration Act 1971. [125928]

Ms Harman: A justices' clerk or legal adviser advises magistrates in all cases in which an application under section 6 of the Immigration Act 1971 is made. As qualified barristers or solicitors, they are fully trained and experienced in the research of legal issues. In giving advice, justices' clerks and legal advisers have access to the statutory provisions and commentary on it, as well as Home Office circulars giving guidance. Because of the relative infrequency of such applications, however, there is no specific national training for legal advisers or magistrates on the topic, although some courts may provide specific local training.

HEALTH

Abortion: Young People

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls *(a)* under the age of 15 and *(b)* aged 15 to 18 years had abortions in each year between 1999 and 2005. [123935]

Caroline Flint: The available information is set out in the following table.

Abortions under age 19, England and Wales residents, 1999-2005

	Under 15 years	*15 to 18 years*
2005	1,083	28,142
2004	1,034	28,186
2003	1,171	27,887
2002	1,075	26,631
2001	1,066	26,738
2000	1,048	26,537
1999	1,066	26,101

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances there were at type 1 accident and emergency departments in each quarter since the quarter ending June 1997; and how many patients were admitted to hospital through type 1 accident and emergency departments in each quarter. [123065]

Andy Burnham: Full information is not available in the format requested. The information available is in the following table.

	Quarter	Attendances at all types of accident and emergency (A and E) department	Attendances at type 1 A and E departments	Admissions via type 1 A and E departments
1997-98	—	14,364,146	—	—
1998-99	—	14,280,388	—	—
1999-2000	—	14,629,025	—	—
2000-01	—	14,293,307	—	—
2001-02	1	3,633,823	—	—
	2	3,685,719	—	—
	3	3,443,924	—	—
	4	3,340,876	—	—
2002-03	1	3,740,076	3,085,850	—
	2	3,746,866	3,095,650	565,743
	3	3,435,018	2,882,500	574,983
	4	3,469,562	2,930,874	583,491
2003-04	1	4,132,497	3,217,931	584,987
	2	4,347,584	3,281,186	604,515
	3	4,027,622	3,106,667	637,406
	4	4,009,142	3,059,698	640,840
2004-05	1	4,502,578	3,377,850	651,785
	2	4,556,695	3,381,219	673,452
	3	4,374,927	3,257,398	705,901
	4	4,402,980	3,249,353	724,814
2005-06	1	4,859,578	3,520,931	719,644
	2	4,744,255	3,403,089	702,254
	3	4,605,971	3,346,995	736,518
	4	4,549,360	3,282,671	733,343
2006-07	1	4,891,724	3,509,770	722,342
	2	4,892,182	3,493,340	737,543
	3	4,559,139	3,307,210	754,449

Notes:
1. Prior to Q1 (April to June) 2001-02, A and E attendance data were only collected annually and as a total for types of A and E department. At this time, this did not include walk-in centres.
2. Attendances at A and E departments broken down by A and E type were first collected in Q1 (April to June) 2002-03.
3. From Q1 (April to June) 2003-04, attendances at walk-in centres were included in attendance information for all types of A and E department. Walk-in centres are considered to be a type 3 A and E service.
4. Admissions via A and E departments were first collected in Q2 2002-03, for type 1 A and E departments.

Source:
QMAE dataset, KH09 dataset, Department of Health

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances at type 1 accident and emergency departments there were in each year since 1997, broken down by NHS organisation. [123123]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available in the format requested.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the average cost of providing care for a patient who has been admitted to hospital via a type 1 accident and emergency department. [123149]

Andy Burnham: Cost data collected from the national health service does not distinguish between different admission methods.

We are therefore unable to identify separately the costs of providing care for patients admitted to hospital via a type 1 accident and emergency department.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the emergency spell differential tariff rate in controlling levels of emergency admissions. [123150]

Andy Burnham: There has not been an assessment of the emergency spell differential tariff rate in controlling levels of emergency admissions. The differential tariff is a method of managing financial risk to commissioners and providers associated with emergency admissions, and not a method of controlling emergency admission levels.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 543W, on accident and emergency departments, what measures she uses to assess the critical size of a hospital; using these methods, if she will define the critical size of a hospital; and what the evidential basis was for the statement that a consensus is emerging on the critical size of a hospital. [123741]

Andy Burnham: There is no central criterion or measure of a critical size of hospital as it will depend on local circumstances. However, we would expect that population demographics are one factor that the local national health service would consider in ensuring the provision of appropriate services, including accident and emergency facilities, to meet people's needs.

The increasing consensus among professional bodies that a critical size of hospital is required to ensure that specialist facilities are available to treat all patients with emergency needs safely is evidenced through a number of publications that such bodies have produced in the past.

Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment she has made of medical developments allowing earlier identification of Alzheimer's disease; [124676]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of research on the delays in the onset of dementia which may result from early identification of Alzheimer's disease; and how she plans for such research to inform NHS practice. [124677]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The NICE clinical guideline on "Dementia: supporting people with dementia and their carers in health and social care", published in November 2006, recommends that as part of their role, primary health care staff should consider referring people who show signs of mild cognitive impairment for assessment by memory assessment services to aid early identification of dementia.

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. A number of national programme studies on Alzheimer's disease and on dementia currently under way are likely to provide evidence of relevance to our understanding of the onset and development of the condition.

The main part of the Department's expenditure on health research is allocated to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS, including a number concerned with the identification, detection or progress of Alzheimer's disease, can be found on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research

Ambulance Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the letter to her from the Minister of State, Department of Health, responsible for delivery and reform, published on her Department's website on 31 January 2007, whether paramedics are expected to take all patients from 999 calls to accident and emergency. [123068]

Andy Burnham: The Department has made clear that ambulance clinicians are not expected to take all patients from 999 calls to accident and emergency departments. Some calls may be resolved over the telephone, and some patients may be treated at the scene or in the community and therefore do not need to go to hospital. In 2005-06, national health service ambulance trusts in England received 5.96 million 999 calls, and attended 4.77 million incidents. Of those incidents attended, 73 per cent. resulted in an emergency patient journey. Guidance was issued in 2002, 2004 and 2005 to this effect.

My letter to the Secretary of State for Health expressed the need to build on the Department's action to date on this issue, and emphasised that more patients could be treated at the scene or in the community.

Ambulance Services: Pendle

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulances are based in Pendle; and how many were based there in 2003. [126050]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Aneurysm Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 402-03W, on aneurysm screening, what assessment she has made of the cost of establishing a national screening programme for men aged 65 and over for abdominal aortic aneurysms. [123156]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Preliminary cost analysis by the UK National Screening Committee's Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Working Group indicates that a full roll-out of an AAA screening programme for men aged 65 would cost between £20 and £25 million revenue to implement in England in year one. Final costs will be subject to a number of factors such as the configuration of services. This is ongoing work.

Blood Cholesterol

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to set targets for reducing blood cholesterol levels in England to the same level as that indicated in the guidelines produced by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network. [124778]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's policy on cholesterol targets is set out in the national service framework for coronary heart disease, and reflected in key drivers of practice such as the quality and outcomes framework of the general medical service contract.

The guidelines produced by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network are welcomed as a contribution to policy development. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently working on guidance on lipid management, due out later this year. That guidance will set out any revisions to current policy on targets for controlling cholesterol.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1411W, on care homes, what form the public consultation on review of the National Minimum Standards for Care Homes will take; and how members of the public will be able to participate in the consultation. [120950]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The consultation will be available on the Department's website. Hard copies will be provided on request. Members of the public will be able to respond via email or post their responses to the addresses given in the consultation document.

Chase Farm Hospital

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the option to retain Chase Farm hospital's *(a)* accident and emergency department and *(b)* consultant-led maternity services is in accordance with the Government's national clinical strategy. [124710]

Andy Burnham: As part of the work leading up to the launch of the formal public consultation on the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey clinical strategy, NHS London has asked Professor Sir George Alberti, the NHS National Director for Emergency Access, to work with the local NHS and offer an independent view on the clinical case for change.

It is for the local NHS, in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, to plan, develop and improve services for local people. Any change to local services would only happen after full public consultation with local people.

Chiropody: Greater London

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines her Department has issued on eligibility and access criteria for podiatry services; and what steps she has taken to assess compliance with such guidelines in *(a)* Bexley primary care trust and *(b)* London primary care trusts. [123699]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no central guidelines in respect of eligibility or access criteria for podiatry services and we have no plans to carry out an assessment. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local stakeholders to commission services in order to meet local needs. Strategic health authorities are responsible for ensuring that PCTs fulfil this duty.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects each primary care trust to start Chlamydia screening as part of the national chlamydia screening programme. [122785]

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of primary care trusts is participating in the Chlamydia screening programme; and when she expects 100 per cent. geographical coverage to be achieved. [123137]

Caroline Flint: In November 2005 the operational management of the national chlamydia screening programme was transferred to the Health Protection Agency (HPA). To the end of December 2006, we had 43 per cent. of Primary Care Trusts reporting data to the HPA. This covers 35 programme areas. More programme areas have started screening since then. The next data will be reported to the HPA in April.

We expect to see 100 per cent. geographical coverage during 2007. Strategic health authorities have submitted plans to screen at least 15 per cent. of their population aged 15-24 by March 2008.

Cochlear Implants

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cochlear implant operations were performed on patients resident in England in *(a)* English and *(b)* Welsh hospitals in each of the last three years. [119329]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) shows that there have been 1,406 cochlear implant operations performed on patients resident in England in the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06). HES is only able to supply data on operations conducted in national health services hospitals in England. Data have been supplied for residents of English strategic health authorities.

The Department does not hold data on the number of cochlear implant operations performed in Welsh hospitals on patients who are resident in England.

Coeliac Disease

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had on extending the range of foodstuffs available by prescription to sufferers of coeliac disease. [118956]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have had no such discussions.

Community Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria govern primary care trusts' applications to access the funds allocated for community hospital refurbishment; and if she will make a statement. [120949]

Andy Burnham: Strategic health authorities have been asked to submit only schemes that fit with their strategic priorities, meet local need and demonstrate value for money. Individual schemes are expected to meet the design principles set out in "Our Health our care, our community—investing in the future of community hospitals and services". The role for the Department is to validate that these criteria have been met and to reassure itself that the schemes deliver the objectives set out in "Our health, our care, our community—Investing in the future of community hospitals and services".

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average number of units of dental activity she expects an average patient to consume in a year. [124937]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made any assumptions nationally about average numbers of units of dental activity for patients. Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning dental services on the basis of local needs assessments.

Dental Services: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to increase the number of NHS dentists and oral health specialists operating in the Leeds area. [123327]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Leeds primary care trust is working to improve access to national health service dentistry. It has recruited three additional dentists in North West Leeds and has established the Leeds Dental Advice Line to help patients access dental services, including emergency services.

Dexrazoxane

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will bring forward proposals to use dexrazoxane for the prevention of cardiac damage caused by antibiotics. [116838]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A marketing authorisation for Cardioxane (dexrazoxane) was approved in the United Kingdom in July 2006, initially to Chiron Corporation Ltd. The current marketing authorisation is held by Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd following a change of ownership application, completed in September 2006.

Cardioxane is authorised for prevention of chronic cumulative cardiotoxicity caused by doxorubicin or epirubicin (anthracycline antibiotics) use in advanced and/or metastatic cancer patients after previous anthracycline containing treatment.

Disability Aids: Children

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what entitlement there is for disabled children to have aids and equipment provided for them by primary care trusts. [123533]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Children, Young People and Maternity Services National Service Framework (NSF) sets out high expectations of what we think health and social care services for children should be. While all the standards within the NSF are relevant to disability, standard 8 specifically relates to disabled children who need ongoing health and social care interventions having access to high-quality evidence-based care delivered by staff with the right skills.

As a result of implementation of the children's NSF, disabled children, young people and their families should experience services based on assessed needs, which promote inclusion and, wherever possible, enable them to live ordinary lives. Provision of aids and equipment is based on an assessment of need, not an entitlement to specific items or services. Decisions on whether or not to meet individual equipment needs are based on assessments carried out at a local level.

The "Transforming Community Equipment Services' Project—helping to make independence a reality" is undertaking a radical review of community equipment and wheelchair services with a view to implementing a new model of service delivery by autumn 2007, with the objective of developing a new model of service delivery in collaboration with all key stakeholders. We anticipate that a new model of service delivery, capable of implementation by autumn 2007, will involve a greatly expanded role for the third sector.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drug treatment services have provision for crèche facilities in relation to *(a)* day care and *(b)* residential care. [121228]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available centrally.

Durham Primary Care Trust: Finance

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what cash savings have been made as a result of the amalgamation of trusts into Durham Primary Care Trust; and what savings are projected in the next 12 months. [124685]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The costs of the changes that were announced on 16 May will depend on a number of factors, including the location of new organisations being created, the number of people in the new organisations and new pay ranges for very senior managers, as well as changes in estate costs following reconfiguration.

These arrangements are currently being worked up and discussed with trade unions and staff. Until those discussions have been concluded and the detail of new arrangements agreed, it is not possible to confirm or accurately forecast costs.

Commissioning a patient-led national health service is designed to deliver £250 million savings from administration costs through streamlining for reinvestment in frontline services. The savings are expected to be realised by the end of 2007 and then every year for reinvestment beginning in 2008-09.

Strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been asked to oversee the Generation of the savings locally. Each SHA has a cost "envelope" that it should realise but it is for local determination to work out the best way of achieving these savings.

Folic Acid

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the potential health benefits of compulsory fortification of flour with folic acid, with particular reference to spina bifida and other neural tube defects; and if she will make a statement. [124140]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department currently recommends that women trying to get pregnant should take a daily 400 microgram folic acid supplement from the time they stop using contraception until the 12th week of pregnancy. Women should also eat foods containing folate—the natural form of folic acid—such as green vegetables and brown rice as well as fortified bread and breakfast cereals. Folic acid helps prevent neural tube defects including spina bifida in the newborn.

The Food Standards Agency is currently undertaking a consultation exercise on the options for increasing the folate intake of young women to reduce the number of pregnancies affected by a neural tube defect. One of the four options being considered is the mandatory fortification of bread or flour with folic acid. The closing date for comments is 13 March 2007.

Food: EC Law

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Food Standards Agency has received a copy of the European Commission consultation document on the proposal that the European Food Safety Authority be permitted to charge fees for the consideration of dossiers submitted under European food law; and if she will make a statement. [123949]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency has received a copy of the Commission's consultation document, and has co-ordinated and submitted a reply on behalf of the United Kingdom Government. The response agreed with the principle of charging for work done in assessing authorisation files, but indicated that such charging should be limited to circumstances in which the applicant is the sole commercial beneficiary. The comments also underlined the important need to take account of the potential impact on small and medium-sized enterprises. These would be at a particular disadvantage with any charging arrangements.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to ensure that primary care trusts support general practitioners in delivering services to patients in innovative ways; and if she will make a statement. [122740]

Andy Burnham: Practice-based gives primary care professionals an opportunity to engage in commissioning and redesign services to better meet patients' needs. PBC gives general practitioners more responsibility for local health budgets. This acts as a driver for more responsive and innovative models of joined-up support within communities, delivering better health outcomes and well-being, including a focus on prevention.

All primary care trusts (PCTs) had arrangements in place to support general practitioners in commissioning and delivering services as part of PBC by December 2006, providing each practice with an indicative budget, information on activity and an incentive to become engaged. PCTs are expected to support practices that are innovative and entrepreneurial, working with them to redesign clinical pathways and secure the services that are needed locally.

New guidance published on 28 November 2006 sets out further obligations on PCTs to help advance PBC. Strategic health authorities are expected to assure themselves that there is a quality framework to support PBC.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the briefing paper issued in 2006 by her Department entitled "An assessment of the clinical effectiveness, cost and viability of NHS General Practitioners with Special Interest (GPSI) services" in relation to the efficacy of moving clinical services from district general hospitals to GP surgeries. [122769]

Andy Burnham: None yet. The commitment to offer more national health service services closer to people's homes was announced in the White Paper "Our Health, our care, our say", which was published in January 2006. Subsequently, in February 2006 we launched the "Care Closer to Home" demonstration project to support delivery of the White Paper commitment. The research paper was published some months later and we will take it into account in evaluating the demonstration project.

General Practitioners: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds were spent by Bedfordshire primary care trust and its predecessors to ensure that doctors' surgeries and general practices can undertake the shift in patient services from the secondary sector to primary care in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [122832]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health Care Professionals: Recruitment

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of which developed countries attract the largest numbers of health care professionals from less developed countries with inadequate domestic health care systems. [107215]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government do not currently collect these data. Nevertheless, the 2006 World Health Report "Working Together for Health" looked at patterns of health care professionals migrating to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. The report says that while statistics on global flows of health workers remain far from complete, nearly 25 per cent. of doctors trained in sub-Saharan Africa are working in OECD countries (from 3 per cent. in Cameroon to 37 per cent. in South Africa). Nurses and midwives trained in sub-Saharan Africa and working in OECD countries represent 5 per cent. of the current work force (again a wide range from 0.1 per cent. in Uganda to 34 per cent. in Zimbabwe). Table 5.1, a copy of which has been placed in the Library, says that among OECD countries there is a range as to the percentage of doctors trained abroad (from 4 per cent. in Portugal to 34 per cent. in New Zealand (33 per cent. for the United Kingdom) and for nurses (0 per cent. for Finland to 21 per cent. for New Zealand (10 per cent. for the UK). It is important to note that the report does not specify the number of these overseas-trained doctors and nurses who come from developing countries.

Health Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has been made of the impact of clinical assessment, treatment and support services on local health economies. [123262]

Andy Burnham: The clinical assessment, treatment and support (CATS) scheme will improve local community access to healthcare services, in line with the White Paper "Our Health, our care, our say" which signalled our intention to bring services closer to patients.

There is a robust process to ensure there is both local support and a capacity need for such schemes, and to reduce the risk that a scheme will destabilise existing national health service providers. An impact analysis of the scheme is currently under way, commissioned by the North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA). The SHA is working closely with the local acute trusts to ensure that any impact is managed and the positive benefits of the scheme for the whole health economy are delivered.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the quality of the treatment in a clinical assessment, treatment and support clinic will be recorded and assessed. [123330]

Andy Burnham: All independent sector providers who are awarded contracts to provide clinical assessment, treatment and support services will be registered with the Healthcare Commission under the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Private and Voluntary Healthcare (England) Regulations 2001 No. 3968.

Strict contractual performance management of independent sector treatment centres is undertaken by the Department's commercial directorate. There are also contractual and statutory reporting obligations to the Department, the Healthcare Commission and referrers.

Health Services: Braintree

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the proposed independent sector treatment centre in Bocking, Braintree on the future of the proposed community hospital on the site of St Michael's Hospital, Braintree. [123425]

Andy Burnham: The introduction of independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) is expected to increase patient choice and accessibility across the region. It is for strategic health authorities to manage the integration of ISTC schemes with local national health service provision.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions have taken place between her Department and the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust on the location of the proposed independent sector treatment centre in Bocking, Braintree; [123426]

(2) what consultation with Mid Essex Primary Care Trust took place before the announcement of Mercury Health as the preferred bidder for the provision of an independent sector treatment centre in Bocking, Braintree. [123427]

Andy Burnham: Engagement with the local national health service on the Essex independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) scheme was with the local strategic health authority (SHA), not directly with the primary care trusts. At the time of Mercury Health's appointment as the scheme's preferred bidder, which was agreed with the East of England SHA, the locations of the proposed ISTC sites, including a potential location in Braintree, had not been finalised.

Location proposals for the ISTC scheme were agreed with East of England SHA. It is anticipated that there will be three ISTCs in the region located in Braintree, Basildon and Southend; locations have been adopted to facilitate easier access for patients in Essex in relation to healthcare services.

Health Services: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services was first asked to produce her reports *(a)* "Making it better: For children and young people" and *(b)* "Making it better: For mother and baby", published on 6 February. [123134]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State asked Sheila Shribman on 7 November 2006 to produce these reports. They are part of a series of published reports by National Clinical Directors (NCDs), setting out the clinical case for change in their respective specialties. NCDs are experts, and each oversees the implementation of a national service framework (NSF) and represents the professional and client group interests and issues in the Department. NCDs work with policy and delivery teams, clinical networks and the national health service management community to achieve joined-up action. Dr. Shribman is in charge of implementation of the NSF for Children, Young People and Maternity Services.

Health Services: EC Nationals

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net cost or benefit to the UK was of reciprocal arrangements for reimbursing the costs of treatment of EU citizens treated in other member states *(a)* in total and *(b)* in respect of each member state in the most recent year for which figures are available. [123506]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows, in resource terms, the estimated net costs to the United Kingdom of the European Union reciprocal arrangements for health care. These are net health care claims estimated in accordance with existing arrangements under the regulations. These figures reflect the fact that more people go abroad (to work, retire or go on holiday) than come to the UK.

Estimated net claims by other European Economic Area member states during 2005

	In sterling (Thousand)
Country	2005
Total	433,441
Austria	2,304
Belgium	776
Cyprus	3,570
France	64,154
Germany	5,103
Greece	-219
Ireland	280,304
Italy	976
Malta	1,713
Netherlands	3,047
Portugal	1,142
Spain	68,972
Sweden	-37
Switzerland	1,636

Notes:
1. The information is compiled in line with the requirements of "Government Accounting 2000" and National Audit Office (NAO) and used for Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) purpose during 2005-06.
2. Figures are in thousands and rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Any necessary additional resource adjustments would be included in future years e.g. other new member states.
4. We have waiver arrangements with a number of member states which means they have agreed to bear the costs of each other's insured persons, for example Denmark and Luxembourg.

Health Services: North West Region

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the setting up of clinical assessment, treatment and support clinics in Lancashire and Cumbria will improve accessibility for patients. [123260]

Andy Burnham: Clinical assessment, treatment and support services in Cumbria and Lancashire will provide more services closer to patients' homes and reduce the number of appointments a patient needs to attend before hospital treatment.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the need for the clinical assessment, treatment and support scheme in Lancashire and Cumbria was first identified; and how the need was tested and assessed. [123261]

Andy Burnham: The need for clinical assessment, treatment and support (CATS) services for Cumbria and Lancashire was identified two years ago by the former Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority following the success of a similar scheme in Greater Manchester.

It is estimated that across the north-west the number of patients waiting for treatment needs to be reduced from 119,000 to 65,000 in order to achieve the 18-week maximum waiting time from general practitioner referral to treatment by the end of 2008. A combination of pathway reform, demand management and additional activity such as that offered through CATS is required to achieve this reduction in waiting list numbers.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* GPs in Lancashire and Cumbria will be able to choose not to refer patients and *(b)* patients in that area will be able to choose not to go to a clinical assessment, treatment and support service. [123329]

Andy Burnham: Decisions about where patients are referred for treatment will continue to be made by patients and their general practitioners (GPs). The clinical assessment, treatment and support services in Cumbria and Lancashire will provide an additional referral option for patients and their GPs.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Netcare will be paid over its five-year contract to deliver clinical assessment, treatment and support services in Lancashire and Cumbria. [123331]

Andy Burnham: No contract has been awarded for clinical assessment, treatment and support services in Cumbria and Lancashire. The commercial terms between the Department and Netcare are still subject to negotiation.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what interaction GPs will have with healthcare professionals staffing clinical assessment, treatment and support schemes in Lancashire and Cumbria. [123332]

Andy Burnham: The Cumbria and Lancashire clinical assessment, treatment and support scheme is an integrated scheme between primary and secondary care. Communication between all health care providers in the local health economy is important to achieving this. Local clinicians have already been engaged with the scheme's preferred bidder to this end, to achieve an integrated pathway for patients.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) from where staff working in clinical assessment, treatment and support service clinics in Lancashire and Cumbria will be recruited; [123333]

(2) how many staff, and at what grades, will be employed by Netcare in Lancashire and Cumbria to deliver the clinical assessment, treatment and support service contract; [123334]

(3) who will draft and agree the protocols under which the staff employed in Lancashire and Cumbria by Netcare will work. [123335]

Andy Burnham: The contract for clinical assessment, treatment and support (CATS) services is still under negotiation. All independent sector health care providers awarded contracts under phase 2 of the Independent Sector Treatment Centre procurement are required to comply with the policy of additionality which exists to ensure the conservation of national health service clinical skills in key professions.

As contract negotiations are still ongoing, precise staff numbers, experience, and skills sets are not finalised. However, it is thought that the scheme could employ approximately 150 whole-time equivalent clinical and non-clinical staff.

An independent sector provider awarded a contract to provide CATS services would be required to produce a workforce strategy, which would set workforce protocols. The protocols would be reviewed and approved by the Department.

The independent sector provider's workforce policies are required to comply with all applicable and current United Kingdom employment legislation and departmental guidance and to demonstrate workforce best practice. In addition, independent sector providers are required to comply with the provisions of "Safer Recruitment—A Guide for NHS Employers (May 2005)".

Home Helps

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the total number of home help hours delivered in England in each year since 1997-98. [124929]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The total number of home help hours delivered during the year is not collected centrally. The number of hours of home help delivered in England during a sample week in September of each year from 1997 to 2005 is shown in the table.

Estimated number of contact hours of home help delivered during a sample week, September

	Rounded numbers
	Number of hours
1997	2,607,500
1998	2,607,400
1999	2,684,200
2000	2,791,300
2001	2,881,700
2002	2,983,200
2003	3,174,800
2004	3,359,000
2005	3,567,500

Notes: 1. The table contains estimates for missing data.
2. Households receiving home care purchased with a direct payment are excluded.
Source:
HH1 return.

Hospices: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department expects to give guidance to the Association of Children's Hospices on the distribution of *(a)* year two and *(b)* year three funding of the moneys allocated to children's hospices to replace the loss of Lottery funding; and if she will make a statement. [119140]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are currently reviewing the process used for the hospice service grants in 2006-07 and are collecting information on the hospice service schemes supported this year. We will be discussing with the Association of Children's Hospices and other key stakeholders any revisions necessary to the process for 2007-08 and 2008-09. We will be issuing further information for applicant organisations once this has been completed.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's latest estimate is of the additional cost required to meet the 18-week waiting time target *(a)* in 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* the months April to December 2008. [124930]

Andy Burnham: The 2004 comprehensive spending review provided for an extra £1,000 million and £1,900 million in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively for extra out-patient and in-patient activity needed to cover demand growth, existing waiting time initiatives and progress towards the 18-week waiting time target. The current spending review, which will deal with 2008-09 onwards, has yet to be completed.

Infertility Treatment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, the hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) *Official Report*, columns 125-26WH, on infertility treatment, what funding she is providing for Infertility Network UK to conduct the work she has commissioned; what areas she expects to be covered by Infertility Network UK in the course of its work; when she expects the work to be completed; whether she plans to publish a report on the work completed; whether she plans to publish an interim report; and if she will make a statement. [123496]

Caroline Flint: We are giving a three-year project grant to Infertility Network UK to help primary care trusts share best practice in the provision of fertility services and engage with fertility patients in the planning and prioritisation of services. In the current year, the project funding is £21,000, increasing to £25,000 in 2007-08 and 2008-09. This is in addition to three-year core funding of £30,000 a year.

Once Infertility Network UK has completed an analysis of current provision, we will discuss taking the initial findings forward with including making the results of this work publicly available. As the project progresses, they will liaise with primary care trusts to discuss approaches to the provision of fertility services and the dissemination of good practice.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which groups of workers would be eligible for antiviral prophylaxis in *(a)* an outbreak of avian influenza and *(b)* an influenza pandemic; and if she will make a statement. [123126]

Caroline Flint: In the event of an outbreak of avian influenza any workers who have been or could be exposed to infection through their work activity will be offered the antiviral oseltamivir subject to an individual risk assessment by the Health Protection Agency. Such workers are likely to include poultry workers on the infected farm, vets, catchers and cullers of poultry, and contractors involved in carcase disposal and site decontamination.

Our current United Kingdom strategy is to use antiviral drugs predominantly for treatment of people with pandemic influenza. We are currently considering the practicalities of giving short courses of anti-virals (as prophylaxis) to members of the household of a person with pandemic influenza. However, this would require a larger stockpile than currently planned.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many courses of oseltamivir have been used in the prophylaxis of poultry workers and others potentially exposed to avian influenza in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [123127]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of courses of anti-virals used in the prophylaxis of poultry workers and others potentially exposed to avian influenza is as follows:

		Number
2005	Essex quarantine incident	10
2006	Norfolk H7N3 incident	129
2007	Suffolk avian influenza incident	554

Maternity Services: Disadvantaged

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what effect she expects the recommendations in the report by Dr. Sheila Shribman, "Making it better: For mother and baby", commissioned by her Department, to have on maternity services in areas of urban and rural deprivation; [124106]

(2) how the recommendations of the report by Dr. Sheila Shribman, Making it better: For mother and baby", commissioned by her Department, will inform the work of primary care trusts in redesigning maternity services. [124107]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Dr. Shribman's report did not make specific recommendations. However, it did set out the clinical case for change in maternity services to ensure all women have access to high-quality, safe and responsive services. We will shortly be publishing a document which will describe a programme for improving choice, access and continuity of care in maternity services. The document will set out how commissioners can use the health reform agenda to ensure their services are sensitive to the needs of their population and take into account geographical and health inequality factors.

Maternity Services: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the proposals by the Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country Newborn Network to downgrade the neonatal unit at Royal Shrewsbury hospital to level 2; and why it is proposed that the unit should no longer have level 3 status. [123642]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service West Midlands reports that the maternity unit at Royal Shrewsbury hospital has never been the equivalent of a level 3 unit. Therefore, the proposals, which will be subject to public consultation, should not be viewed as a downgrading of Royal Shrewsbury hospital's maternity unit.

Mid Essex Primary Care Trust

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many administrative staff there were in each of the three individual primary care trusts that have been merged into Mid Essex primary care trust prior to the merger; and what the corresponding figure is for the newly merged primary care trust. [126037]

Andy Burnham: Information regarding Mid Essex primary care trust (PCT) is not currently available, but will be published in late April.

Information for the three individual primary care trusts prior to the merger is contained in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Administrative staff in each specified organisation by level as at 30 September 2005

	Headcount
Total specified organisations	365
Chelmsford PCT: Total	65
Senior manager	4
Manager	13
Clerical and administrative	48
Maldon And South Chelmsford PCT: Total	150
Senior manager	5
Manager	16
Clerical and administrative	129
Witham Braintree and Halstead Care Trust: Total	150
Senior manager	9
Manager	27
Clerical and administrative	114

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each former individual primary care trust in the newly formed Mid Essex Primary Care Trust spent annually on its finance department prior to the merger of the three primary care trusts; and how much has been spent since the merger into one primary care trust. [126038]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Midwives: Leicestershire

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were in training in Leicestershire teaching hospitals in each year since 1997. [123186]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed in the NHS in Leicestershire in each year since 1997. [123191]

Andy Burnham: The number of midwives employed in the national health service in Leicestershire in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table. 2005 is the latest year for which centrally validated figures are available.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Leicester General Hospital NHS Trust	150	140	159	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	212	226	233	—	—	—	—	—	—
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	—	—	—	393	372	365	398	390	352
Total specified organisations	362	366	392	393	372	365	398	390	352

Notes:
1. In 2000 Leicester General Hospital NHS Trust and Leicester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust merged to form the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.
2. Figures given are for headcount and not whole-time equivalents.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Monitor

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual budget is of Monitor; when it was set up; how many paid officials it employs; whether it shares office premises with another publicly-funded body; what annual rental is paid on its offices; and if she will make a statement. [126728]

Andy Burnham: Monitor (whose statutory name is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) was established in January 2004 further to section 2 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (which has since been consolidated into the National Health Service Act 2006).

Monitor's annual budget for 2006-07 is £12.8 million, £0.5 million of which relates to Monitor's involvement in the Department's whole health community diagnostic exercise for the acute and mental health national health service trusts.

I am advised by the chairman of Monitor that it currently employs 69 full-time staff and the annual rental paid on its offices, which are not shared with any other publicly funded body, is approximately £358,000.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members there are of each NHS foundation hospital trust in England; and what the annual cost of servicing the membership has been in each case. [121479]

Andy Burnham: I am advised by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) that the most up-to-date membership figures for each national health service foundation trust are contained in Monitor's recent submission to the Health Committee's inquiry into patient and public involvement in the NHS, a copy which is available in the Library (HC 278-11). At the time of Monitor's submission in January 2007, there were approximately 625,000 members of the then 54 NHS foundation trusts.

The annual cost of servicing the membership of individual NHS foundation trusts depends on a number of factors, including their size. Detailed figures may be obtained by contacting the chairs of individual NHS foundation trusts direct.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 672-73W, on NHS foundation trusts, if she will list references to the growing body of evidence that performance and responsiveness have improved across the national health service foundation trust sector. [124535]

Andy Burnham: Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) routinely publishes information on the performance of national health service foundation trusts on its website at www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk. Key publications include "NHS Foundation Trusts: Report for six-month period to 30 September 2006" and "Review and Consolidated Accounts of NHS Foundation Trusts 2005-06", the latter of which was laid before Parliament on 12 December 2006. The financial results for the nine-month period to 31 December 2006 are due to be published in mid-March 2007.

The results of the 2005-06 annual health check exercise by the Healthcare Commission, which are publicly available on its website at www.healthcarecommission.org.uk, show that foundation trusts are delivering improved care for patients required by their commissioners and to nationally prescribed standards, and value for money.

Other evidence includes publications by the Foundation Trust Network at www.foundationtrustnetwork.org such

as "Foundation Trusts: two years on" which provides further independent evidence that foundation trusts are demonstrating the capacity for improving patient services that their greater freedom and independent corporate governance brings.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the funding for the proposed independent sector treatment centres will be on-balance sheet; and if she will make a statement. [122943]

Andy Burnham: Where assets under the Independent Sector Treatment Centre programme are likely to revert to the national health service these will appear on balance sheet. Funding for this is through the NHS capital allocations and is included in the Department's accounts.

NHS: Drugs

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the pooled treatment budget for NHS drugs is in London, broken down by primary care trust. [123387]

Caroline Flint: The information in the table shows the pooled drug treatment budget allocations for London primary care trusts in 2006-07 and proposed allocations in 2007-08.

£

PCT lead within London	Adult PTB 2006-07 (inc. PTB capital)	PTB channelled through PCT 2007-08 (indicative)
Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust	870,454	898,680
Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust	2,425,088	2,500,997
Hounslow Primary Care Trust	1,537,391	1,573,628
Camden Primary Care Trust	3,742,613	3,721,583
Harrow Primary Care Trust	1,154,246	1,147,614
Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust	2,539,277	2,516,144
Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust	1,301,669	1,289,327
Bromley Primary Care Trust	1,416,665	1,402,142
Ealing Primary Care Trust	3,030,690	2,993,276
Kingston Primary Care Trust	913,504	899,782
Shropshire County Primary Care Trust	1,217,918	1,191,582
Westminster Primary Care Trust	3,749,859	3,661,381
Wandsworth Primary Care Trust	2,907,657	2,828,642
Islington Primary Care Trust	4,205,056	4,083,429
Hillingdon Primary Care Trust	1,428,987	1,382,808
Croydon Primary Care Trust	2,621,398	2,525,451
Redbridge Primary Care Trust	1,690,983	1,616,458
Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust	2,477,765	2,370,185
Barnet Primary Care Trust	1,925,810	1,842,574
Southwark Primary Care Trust	5,496,933	5,227,945
Lambeth Primary Care Trust	5,673,357	5,394,600
Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust	4,823,856	4,581,539
Havering Primary Care Trust	1,138,830	1,069,836
City and Hackney Teaching Primary Care Trust	4,745,863	4,455,842
Lewisham Primary Care Trust	4,250,630	3,970,603
Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust	1,785,507	1,667,030
Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust	3,767,782	3,515,473
Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust	3,054,739	2,841,524
Brent Primary Care Trust	3,436,454	3,190,011
Bexley Primary Care Trust	1,229,835	1,132,538
Enfield Primary Care Trust	2,533,191	2,308,077
Newham Primary Care Trust	5,350,955	4,857,637

NHS: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* dentists and *(b)* patients were registered in Eastbourne constituency in each year since 1997. [125471]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Table 1 shows information on the number of national health service dentists and the numbers of patients registered with an NHS dentist as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 for the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency, under the old contractual arrangements.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, registration data are no longer collected centrally. Instead, there is a new measure on patients seen within the last 24 months. The latest information of numbers of NHS dentists and patients seen within the last 24 months is provided in tables 2 and 3. These data are only available at England, strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) levels and not at constituency level. The Eastbourne constituency is covered by Eastbourne Downs PCT.

Table 1: General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Number of NHS dentists and patients registered with an NHS dentist within Eastbourne constituency as at 31 March each year

	Dentists	Registrations
1997	51	57,696
1998	54	56,632
1999	52	52,885
2000	51	54,962
2001	50	54,570
2002	55	53,130
2003	61	55,392
2004	57	52,750
2005	62	53,528
2006	64	50,950

Notes:
1. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Information on NHS dentistry in the community dental service, in hospitals and in prisons is excluded.
2. A dentist can provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed within the contract. In some cases an NHS dentist may be listed to carry out NHS work but may not do so for a given period.
3. The data in this report are based on NHS dentists on PCT lists from the BSA.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care
NHS Business Services Authority (BSA)

Table 2: Number of dentists (performers) on open NHS contracts as at 30 June 2006 and 30 September 2006

	Eastbourne Downs PCT
30 June 2006	69
30 September 2006	71

Notes:
1. A performer is defined as a dentist who has been set up on the BSA Payments online (POL) system by the PCT to work under an open contract during the relevant time period.
2. Data provided are a count of the individuals listed as performers on open contracts within a PCT, including orthodontists.
3. A dentist can provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed within the contract. In some cases an NHS dentist may be listed to carry out NHS work but may not do so for a given period.
4. Data consists of performers in General Dental Services (GDS), Personal Dental Services (PDS) and Trust-led Dental Services.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care.
NHS Business Services Authority (BSA).

Table 3: Number of patients seen in the two years ending 30 June 2006 and 30 September 2006

	Eastbourne Downs PCT
30 June 2006	89,959
30 September 2006	89,597

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care
NHS Business Services Authority (BSA)

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the outcome of her policy to ensure that overspending NHS organisations achieve run-rate balance in March 2007 by *(a)* health economy and *(b)* individual NHS organisations; and whether she monitors the monthly income and expenditure of NHS organisations forecasting deficits in 2006-07. [123130]

Andy Burnham: In 2006-07, one of the Secretary of State's key financial objectives was to achieve recurrent monthly run rate balance across as many national health service organisations as possible by 31 March. We will assess progress against this target for individual organisations and the NHS as a whole at the end of the year. The income and expenditure of all NHS organisations are monitored on a monthly basis.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts she expects to be in financial deficit at the end of the 2006-07 financial year. [124405]

Andy Burnham: The report "NHS Financial Performance Quarter Three 2006-07", published on 20 February contains details of the forecast financial outturn position for all NHS organisations. Copies of the report are available in the Library. Final accounts for each national health service organisation will be published in the autumn.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons her Department produced the NHS investment maps published on 27 February; when her Department was instructed to produce these maps; who in her Department asked for the maps to be produced; and what the overall cost to the public purse was of producing the maps. [124927]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The maps were commissioned by Ministers on 14 February, to convert existing data about the hospital and primary care buildings programme into a more accessible format for the NHS and the public.

The overall cost was £3,200, including set-up costs, which will enable the Department to re-use the templates for different data sets and for a number of different communications vehicles.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department expects to publish *(a)* primary care trust allocations for 2008-09 and *(b)* its final report on its review of the weighted capitation formula; what major milestones exist as part of her Department's review of the weighted capitation formula; and if she will make a statement. [124935]

Andy Burnham: The date for the announcement of revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) post 2007-08 has not yet been determined.

The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) is reviewing elements of the weighted capitation formula, as is usual before a new round of allocations. ACRA will be making recommendations on changes to the weighted capitation formula to Ministers in the autumn of 2007, in time to inform allocations for 2008-09.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date strategic health authorities are required to submit 2006-07 month 12 financial performance data for their entire health economies to her Department. [124936]

Andy Burnham: Strategic health authorities will send the Department month 12 provisional outturn forecast positions for their organisations on 11 May 2007.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts received funding below the national capitation formula in 2006-07; and by what total amount. [126917]

Andy Burnham: In 2006-07, 175 primary care trusts received funding below their weighted capitation targets. This represented £1.1 billion in cash terms.

NHS: ICT

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to maintain incentive payments to general practitioners to use the choose and book system. [123758]

Andy Burnham: A decision has yet to be made.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance her Department has issued to local service providers on delivering the integrated NHS national programme for IT; and what requirements have been placed on such providers; [123994]

(2) how many local service providers have indicated that they will not be delivering the national integrated programme for IT; and if she will make a statement. [123995]

Caroline Flint: The role of national programme local service providers (LSPs) is to deliver information technology systems and services across the national health service within clusters of strategic health authorities, in London (BT), the south (Fujitsu), and the north, midlands and east (CSC). LSPs ensure the integration of existing local systems and, where necessary, implement new systems so that the national applications can be delivered locally, while maintaining common standards. All LSPs have contracted to develop and deliver a fully integrated NHS care record solution, and are in the process of doing so.

Like all contracts, those between the Department and the LSPs provide for obligations and undertakings on either party. Among the key requirements which the contracts place on the LSPs are that functions and services are shown to work before they are bought. If providers do not deliver to their contractual obligations they are not paid. In this way the cost of non-delivery rests with the supplier, not the taxpayer. So, for example, we have retained extensive rights under the contracts to defer payments, receive compensation for missed milestones and, if necessary, terminate contracts, for failure to achieve required performance or deployment activity. We also reserve the right to consent to the appointment of key personnel of the prime contractor and material subcontractors, and have an interventionist approach to assurance including step-in rights or the appointment of a third party in certain critical circumstances if necessary.

These arrangements have been devised to secure an optimum balance between cost, risk, incentive and quality of outcome for the provision of the systems and services that we have specified for the benefit of patients, the NHS and taxpayers.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria her Department is employing to determine whether the NHS national programme for IT is successful; and if she will make a statement. [123996]

Caroline Flint: The successes of the national programme are visible every day of the week in hospitals, general practices and pharmacies across the national health service, and the benefits are being experienced by doctors, nurses and, most importantly, patients. On any typical day the national programme currently enables over 100,000 prescriptions to be transmitted electronically, reducing errors and inefficiencies; 16,000 choose and book electronic bookings to be made, putting patients in charge of their care and reducing significantly the numbers not attending outpatient appointments; almost 1.5 million queries to be processed on the patient demographic system, ensuring receipt of around three-quarters of a million letters a year that would otherwise be posted to the wrong address and enabling patient information to be handled more efficiently; over 100,000 NHSmail users, each of whom has an email address for life, to send 1 million secure emails, one third of which contain confidential patient information; 20 new secure broadband connections to be installed; and 33,000 general practitioners (GPs) to use the quality management analysis system (QMAS) to deliver better care to patients under the new GP contract.

Meanwhile, we are developing plans to respond to a recommendation, made by the National Audit Office in its June 2006 report on the national programme, for the publication of an annual statement quantifying the benefits delivered by all aspects of the programme, set against the costs incurred. The aim is for the first statement, to include information for 2006-07, to be available in summer 2007.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms her Department has available to hold DHL, as holder of the contract to manage supply chain and procurement services for the NHS, to account should the national procurement savings target not be met; [125415]

(2) what financial incentives DHL receives as part of its contract to manage supply chain and procurement services for the NHS. [125416]

Andy Burnham: DHL receives financial remuneration for operating NHS Supply Chain in the form of a transaction fee for every item ordered.

DHL has a significant incentive to maximise sales volume by lowering selling prices, investing in increasing capacity, and improving product quality and service performance. There are significant contractual constraints on the maximum remuneration payable including a profit cap. Therefore savings flow through to national health service trusts, which in turn ensures benefit to NHS patients by reducing the overall cost of patient care.

The NHS Business Services Authority manages the outsourced DHL contract to run the business now known as NHS Supply Chain, ensuring compliance with all contractual obligations.

NHS: Surveys

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the NHS GP patient survey of hospital choice provided by Ipsos MORI. [122391]

Andy Burnham: The general practitioner patient survey is expected to cost no more than £11 million. The total cost of the hospital choice element of the survey will depend on the number of responses received by Ipsos MORI from patients, but is likely to be in the region of £2.5 million.

The hospital choice survey will be handed out to patients who have been referred between 16 January and 30 March 2007.

NHS: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Department for Education and Skills and *(b)* the Learning and Skills Council on ways to reduce the number of health care staff without a level 2 qualification. [123402]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service invests heavily in making training and development opportunities available for people who join NHS organisations at a relatively low skills level.

The Department is working closely with the Department for Education and Skills, the sectors skills councils for health and social care, employers and other key stakeholders to consider the implications of the Leitch review of skills for the health and social care work force.

Out-patients: Attendance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many out-patient did-not-attends there were in each quarter since the quarter ending June 1997 *(a)* in England and *(b)* broken down by NHS organisation; and what proportion this represented in each quarter. [123144]

Andy Burnham: Information on the number and percentage of did-not-attends (DNAs) for first, follow-up and total consultant-led out-patient attendances has been placed in the Library. Data have been supplied for 1996-07 to the second quarter of 2006-07. However, the data for 1996-07 to 1999-2000 are at England level only and on annual basis only; and the data for 2000-01 are on an annual basis only.

Patient Choice Schemes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the *(a)* introduction and *(b)* roll-out of the (i) choice and (ii) choose and book system. [123607]

Andy Burnham: The cost of the choose and book computer system will be £64.5 million for system development and related service charges under a core contract with Atos Origin spanning five years. This core contract covered release 1 of the software, delivered on time and to budget on 2 July 2004, a disaster recovery service to ensure resilience and continuity of the service, a helpdesk service to answer user inquiries, and a programme to keep the underlying technologies up to date over the lifetime of the contract. At the end of January 2007, expenditure against this contract was £34.6 million, up from £26.4 million at April 2006.

A further £39.7 million has been spent on the additional functionality and services that the original business case, approved by HM Treasury in October 2003, envisaged were likely to be required as the system rolls out. These costs are expected to total £79.5 million over the five-year period. To date expenditure has covered releases 2 and 3 of the software, a number of minor enhancements increasing the breadth of functionality in response to user comments and changing policy requirements, the delivery and support of a demonstration environment to facilitate clinical engagement, and an additional test environment to ensure that the new software performs as required. An additional £36 million has been spent on supporting the technical configuration of 109,000 local desktop computers and infrastructure to make them compatible with choose and book and with subsequent national programmes for information technology systems. Training has also been provided to trainers and 50,000 end users. These items were also included in the original business case.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms she has put in place to measure the change in the overall administrative burden of managing referrals referred to in the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1152W, on the choose and book system. [123608]

Andy Burnham: None. The choose and book system should reduce the overall administrative burden of managing referrals. For example, it eliminates the need for hospitals to correspond with patients over possible appointment times, and absolves practice staff and patients from the need to chase responses to referrals.

Pre-eclampsia

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* women, broken down by age group, and *(b)* babies in England died from pre-eclampsia in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what recent research she has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on this condition; what recent discussions she has had with members of the medical profession on pre-eclampsia; and if she will make a statement. [119951]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on the number of stillbirths and maternal deaths where pre-eclampsia and eclampsia was identified as the cause of death are shown in the following tables. The number of maternal deaths are also broken down by age group.

Babies do not die from pre-eclampsia, but from the effects of it. They mainly die from prematurity associated with early delivery. More rarely, death occurs following eclampsia in the mother where, for example, the oxygen to the baby is interrupted or from antepartum haemorrhage associated with severe pre-eclampsia. Mothers who have experienced chronic pre-eclampsia may have babies who are small for gestational age and they are also at risk.

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service, and through its health technology assessment programme is undertaking a systematic review of the methods of prediction and prevention of pre-eclampsia. The results of the review will be published early next year.

Stillbirths where pre-eclampsia was identified as the maternal condition

	Number
2001	119
2002	123
2003	146
2004	134
2005	107

Source:
Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health.

Maternal deaths certified as due to pre-eclampsia, eclampsia and other related conditions, England and Wales, 2001 to 2005

	Number
2001	3
2002	9
2003	6
2004	4
2005	7
Total	29

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Deaths by age group, 2001 to 2005

Age group	*Number*
<20	1
20-24	3
25-29	6
30-34	12
35-39	4
40 and over	3
Total	29

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts operate referral management schemes; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of such schemes; what safeguards she has put in place to ensure that referral management schemes operated by the independent sector do not compromise the care offered to patients; whether referral management schemes have the statutory authority to override GP referrals; and if she will make a statement. [123069]

Andy Burnham: Information on how many primary care trusts operate referral management centres is not held centrally. Primary care trusts with their partners, including the independent sector, have been advised that it is good practice to review and where necessary develop existing referral management centres to make sure that they create tangible benefits for patients, and uphold the principles set out in 'Care and resource utilisation: ensuring appropriateness of care', published on 14 December 2006. This is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4141316&chk=iJxRrx

Referral management centres are not subject to legislative provision.

Rice: Imports

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many shipments containing US long grain rice have been rejected at UK ports of entry for failing to comply with emergency EU legislation on GM Rice (LL601) since August 2005; and what the volume was of each shipment. [123683]

Caroline Flint: Commission Decision 578/2006 came into force in August 2006 and required all imports of United States (US) long grain rice into the European Union to be certified free from the unauthorised genetically modified (GM) rice LL601. This Decision was replaced in September by Decision 601/2006, which was amended in November to require such imports to be subject to additional re-testing at the point of import. Two shipments of US long grain rice arriving in the United Kingdom have been rejected, as they arrived in September 2006 without the necessary certificate, and testing at the port indicated the presence of the unauthorised GM rice. These shipments were of 183 and 22 tonnes.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* HIV, *(b)* chlamydia, *(c)* gonorrhoea, *(d)* syphilis, *(e)* genital warts and *(f)* genital herpes there have been in England since 1997, (i) in total and (ii) broken down by (A) strategic health authority area and (B) primary care trust area. [123141]

Caroline Flint: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Havering

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* 15 to 19-year-olds and *(b)* adults over the age of 19 in the Havering Primary Care Trust area were (i) diagnosed with and (ii) tested for sexually transmitted infections in each of the last five years. [123585]

Caroline Flint: Information on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in residents in the Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT) area is not available. Information from Barking and Dagenham, which hosts the nearest/adjacent genitorurinary medicine (GUM) clinic has been given in the table.

Specific sexually transmitted infections diagnosed by age group in the GUM clinic in the Barking and Dagenham PCT, London.

Age group	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
15-19	173	169	230	210	198
>19	625	876	926	903	647

Notes:
1. Information by age-group is not available for attendances at GUM clinics, but is available only for the five major STI diagnoses (uncomplicated chlamydia, uncomplicated gonorrhoea, genital warts, genital herpes and infectious syphilis).
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
3. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with several co-infections and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
4. Data on patients PCT of residence is not available.
5. Data on patients tested for STI by age-groups is not available.
Source:
KC60 returns, England.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Young People

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases there were of sexually transmitted infections in each year between 1999 and 2005 in girls *(a)* under the age of 15 and *(b)* aged 15 to 18 years. [123936]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2048W, to the hon. Member for Aldridge-Brownhills (Mr. Shepherd).

Skin Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the proportion of all cancers for which skin cancer will account in 2022; [124256]

(2) what estimate she has made of the rate of change in the number of skin cancer cases over the next 15 years. [124258]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Departmental analysts estimate that skin cancer as a proportion of all cancers in 2022 will be 3.5 per cent. (this excludes all cases of non-malignant melanoma of the skin).

Additionally, we estimate that the number of cases skin cancer will increase by 41 per cent. over the next 15 years, from an estimated 7,484 cases in 2007 to an estimated 10,550 in 2022 (this excludes all cases of non-malignant melanoma of the skin).

Slimming: Drugs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of *(a)* the availability of slimming pills online and *(b)* the effect of online availability on the prevalence of addiction to such pills. [126041]

Caroline Flint: Addictive drugs, including psychostimulants such as amphetamines, may be included as a constituent of slimming pills online. There is no direct evidence of the impact on the prevalence of addiction to such pills of the availability of such products online.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency-monitors the online availability of medicines. United Kingdom as based websites which are identified dealing in breach of medicines legislation are referred for appropriate enforcement action. Websites discovered operating illegally outside the European Union are referred to the relevant authority in the country concerned for appropriate action.

The Department continues to ensure that there is access to credible information about the risks of all drugs, including the possible dangers involved in addiction. In particular, the information campaign, FRANK, communicates the known harmful effects of all illegal and harmful drugs, including amphetamines.

Smoking: Shropshire

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many council staff in Shropshire will be trained to enforce the smoking ban in bars, restaurants and shops; and how much money has been allocated for this training. [123050]

Caroline Flint: The local authorities that will be responsible for the enforcement of smoke-free legislation are set out in the Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006. As local authorities will enforce smoke-free legislation in a way that is most appropriate to their local areas, no estimate of the number of enforcement officers can be provided, because these decisions will be taken locally.

The funding allocation to individual local authorities is set out in Local Authority Circular (2006) 17. A copy is available in the Library.

In addition, the Department is funding centralised training on smoke-free legislation for two members of staff from each local authority with enforcement responsibilities. The training will be delivered by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, and will focus on supportive, non-confrontational and consistent methods to build compliance with smoke-free legislation to create an environment where enforcement action will be minimised.

Social Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets have been set for local authorities by central Government regarding social care; and when each target was introduced. [124533]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "National Standards, Local Action; Health and Social Care Standards and Planning Framework 2005/06-2007-08", published in July 2004, set out a standard-based planning framework for health and social care and standards for national health service health care to be used in planning, commissioning and delivering services.

The standards set out are focused on the provision of NHS health care, but recognise the need to develop services in a co-ordinated way, taking full account of the responsibilities of other agencies in providing comprehensive care and in particular, the statutory duties of partnership on all NHS bodies and local authorities established under the Health Act 1999 and the Health and Social Care (Community Health and

Standards) Act 2003. This introduced requirements on both the NHS and local authorities to work together to achieve the co-operation needed to bring about improvements in health care.

The following specific targets for 2005 to 2008 were set for local authority social services and social services in partnership with the NHS:

improve the quality of life and independence of vulnerable older people by supporting them to live in their own homes where possible by:

increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by 1 per cent. annually in 2007 and 2008; and

increasing by 2008 the proportion of those supported intensively to live at home to 34 per cent. of the total of those being supported at home or in residential care.

increase the participation of problem drug users in drug treatment programmes by 100 per cent. by 2008 (from a 1998 baseline); and increase year-on-year the proportion of users successfully sustaining or completing treatment programmes.

and although measured through NHS indicators, social services provide a major contribution to:

improve health outcomes for people with long-term conditions by offering a personalised care plan for vulnerable people most at risk; and to reduce emergency bed days by 5 per cent. by 2008 (from the expected 2003-04 baseline), through improved care in primary care and community settings for people with long-term conditions.

Turnaround Programme

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Northavon of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 930W, on the turnaround programme, which organisations were identified as being a category 1 priority requiring urgent intervention. [121856]

Andy Burnham: Between December 2005 and February 2006 KMPG was contracted to undertake an assessment of the financial position of a number of trusts and primary care trusts. It categorised each organisation as follows:

Immediate priority. Need for urgent intervention to drive turnaround.

Additional expertise/resource needed to support the turnaround.

Drive/focus. Maintain high priority of actions.

Regular challenge of management. Encourage to share what works and deliver easy wins.

In the summer of 2006, the national programme office for turnaround reviewed the composition of the turnaround cohort in consultation with SHAs. Thus from August 2006 the turnaround cohort was increased to 143, which became 104 organisations following the PCT reconfiguration in October 2006. The organisations were re-categorised as high priority and priority.

A list of the revised organisations has been placed in the Library.

University Hospital Birmingham: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information she has received on the energy performance and use of renewable energy in the University Hospital Birmingham private finance initiative buildings being erected. [124637]

Andy Burnham: The University Hospital Birmingham private finance initiative buildings which are currently being erected have been designed to be energy efficient. Once completed these buildings will be capable of complying with the Government's new energy efficiency performance target and be at least 20 per cent. more efficient than the current hospital buildings. In addition, the private finance initiative contractors are looking into the possibility of using renewable energy sources at this site.

Varicose Veins: Surgery

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many varicose vein operations were carried out in the NHS in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of such operations in each year. [121414]

Andy Burnham: The number of varicose vein procedures carried out in the national health service in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the cost to the NHS were as follows:

	Number of procedures	*Estimated cost to the NHS (£ million)*
2003-04	42,810	41.6
2004-05	37,340	39.6
2005-06	35,316	40.2

The number of procedures were obtained from the reference costs data 2004, 2005 and 2005-06 and the total costs were calculated using the unit costs from the same source. The estimates:

cover planned, both day case and elective, admissions for services provided by NHS trusts and primary care trusts but do not include non-elective procedures or procedures carried out in the out-patient setting;

include the costs of excess bed days;

exclude any services commissioned or contracted out to non-NHS providers.

West Hertfordshire NHS Trust: Manpower

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from St. Albans City and District Council on financial deficits within West Hertfordshire NHS Trust. [124654]

Andy Burnham: The Department is aware of three letters from St Albans city and district council which have been answered.

Written Questions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to answer question 112026, tabled on 24 January 2007 by the hon. Member for Twickenham, on representations from professional bodies about proposals in the Foster Review. [123030]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1550W.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Health Services

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure was incurred by Bedfordshire primary care trust and Bedford primary care trust in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2004-05 in treating detainees from the Yarl's Wood Detention Centre; and how much has been incurred in 2006-07. [127092]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a local matter. It is for Bedfordshire primary care trust to commission appropriate services for those detained at Yarl's Wood over and above the primary health care services provided on site by the Home Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: St George's Day

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to celebrate St George's Day. [125785]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issues the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings. This includes recommending flying the St George's flag on St George's Day, 23 April, on buildings with two or more flag poles, provided it is flown alongside the Union flag with the Union flag in the superior position. Two of DCLG's HQ buildings, Eland House and Ashdown House, have a second flag pole, and the St George's flag will be flown on these to celebrate St George's day.

Discrimination: Sexuality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the proposed sexual orientation discrimination regulations; and if she will make a statement. [124841]

Mr. Woolas: The Government laid before Parliament the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 on 8 March 2007. The new regulations will protect individuals from discrimination on the grounds of their sexual orientation in the provision of goods, facilities, services and education, the management and disposal of premises and the exercise of public functions.

Equality Act 2006

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which gay rights organisations she has met in relation to the Equality Act 2006; and how many such meetings she has had. [122248]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has had three meetings with Stonewall, a gay rights organisation, regarding the Government's proposals for the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007.

Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* total public subsidy and *(b)* contributions through (i) capital grants, (ii) gifts of land, (iii) dowries and (iv) gap funding made available to registered social landlords have been since 1997; and what amount this represents per home. [105273]

Yvette Cooper: Capital grant is the major form of public subsidy provided to registered social landlords (RSLs). The following table shows the capital grant provided to RSLs in 2005-06, and the other public subsidy associated with the grant payments.

	£ million
Total public subsidy	1,929
Capital grant	1,795.4
Gifts of land	Not available
Dowries	[1] —
Gap funding	3.9

[1] On dowries provided as part of a large scale voluntary transfer I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 370W. We do not hold figures nationally. Details of dowry payments made are matters between the local authority and the registered social landlord.

The average grant per unit of a social rented scheme allocated through the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme in 2005-06 was around £62,000. A further average £700 was provided through other public subsidy for these schemes.

In 2005-06 the Department entered into five new gap funding arrangements with registered social landlords who received negative value housing stock under large scale voluntary transfer arrangements. The 2005-06 gap funding payments of £3.9 million averaged £510 per property transferred to those five RSLs in that year. A total of 19 large scale voluntary transfers were completed in 2005-06.

Information on the average grant per RSL home funded by English Partnerships funding is not available.

Housing: Inspections

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department takes to ensure that applicants to become home inspectors are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau. [124818]

Yvette Cooper: A Criminal Records Bureau check is a mandatory requirement that must be undertaken by all potential home inspectors when they apply to join a home inspector certification scheme.

Housing: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new affordable houses were built in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [125315]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of affordable homes provided in Lancashire in each of the last five years are tabulated as follows. Affordable housing includes social

rent, low cost home ownership and other sub-market rental products. Some affordable housing units are provided through the acquisition and refurbishment of dwellings purchased on the open market and these figures are also included.

Affordable homes provided: Lancashire

	Affordable homes provided[1]
2001-02	534
2002-03	623
2003-04	432
2004-05	412
2005-06	547

[1] Includes new build and acquisitions.

Source:
Housing Corporation, statistical returns from local authorities.

Lancashire has been defined to include the following local authorities: Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire, Wyre, Blackpool (unitary) and Blackburn with Darwen (unitary).

Housing: Standards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information she has on the standard assessment procedure (SAP) rating of homes, broken down by tenure, in *(a)* 1996, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* the latest period for which figures are available; what the minimum SAP rating is to achieve the decent homes standard; and if she will make a statement. [124598]

Yvette Cooper: The English House Condition Survey (EHCS) reports for 1996, 2001 and 2004 give details of average SAP ratings for dwellings in England, broken down by dwelling type, age and tenure. Copies of these reports are available in the Library of the House, or from the Communities and Local Government website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/ehcs

There is no specific SAP rating required by the decent homes standard. However, in order for a home to be decent it must have both efficient heating and effective insulation, and must be free of category 1 hazards under the housing health and safety rating system, including hazards from cold.

An SAP rating of less than 35 (using the 2001 SAP methodology) has been established as a proxy for the likely presence of a category 1 hazard from excess cold.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much funding each neighbourhood renewal area in England received directly from her Department and its predecessor to support regeneration projects in each year from 2001-02 to 2005-06; what funding has been allocated to each local authority for the same purpose in 2006-07 and 2007-08; to which programmes within each neighbourhood renewal area funding has been allocated; and how much was allocated to each programme. [114875]

Mr. Woolas *[pursuant to the reply, 17 January 2007, Official Report, c. 1218W]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR), provided £3.208 billion in direct funding to 90 neighbourhood renewal areas in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06; and has allocated £2.224 billion for the period 2006-07 to 2007-08. Total funding for the period 2001-02 to 2007-08 is £5.433 billion. A detailed breakdown of funding provided to each neighbourhood renewal area and the allocations for each local authority and each programme have been placed in the Library of the House.

Overcrowding: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* households and *(b)* children are living in overcrowded housing in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex. [125486]

Yvette Cooper: There are two measures of overcrowding—the statutory definition and the bedroom standard.

Using the bedroom standard, the only recent estimate of the number of overcrowded households in East Sussex is 4,000. This is from an ad hoc report based on combined data from both the Survey of English Housing and the Department for Work and Pensions' Family Resources Survey for the three years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Reliable estimates for the number of children living in overcrowded accommodation in East Sussex are not available. Separate data for Eastbourne are also not available.

Estimates based on the statutory standard are not available because the underlying data are not collected systematically. A one-off estimate was made in 2004 that approximately 20,000 households across the whole of England were in conditions of overcrowding that breached the statutory standard. This estimate was based on data from the Survey of English Housing for the period 2000-01 to 2002-03 and from the 2001 English House Condition Survey. Equivalent estimates for East Sussex and Eastbourne are not available.

Public Footpaths

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it a requirement for planning authorities to consult the Ramblers Association and other recognised interest groups when planning applications are made under the Town and Country Planning Acts which include proposals for the creation of new public footpaths, cycleways and bridle paths. [124647]

Yvette Cooper: Local planning authorities are already required to inform these groups of changes to rights of way by sending them copies of the statutory notices of the relevant orders. The orders are the Town and Country Planning (Public Path Orders) Regulations 1993, the Public Path Orders Regulations 1993, the Wildlife and Countryside (Definitive Maps and Statements) Regulations 1993 and the Rail Crossing Extinguishment and Diversion Orders Regulations 1993.

Department of the Environment circular 2/93 "Public Rights of Way" advised local authorities that they should also consult these groups before making these orders. We have no evidence that these long-standing arrangements are not working in practice.

My Department intends, however, to consult on matters relating to statutory consultees on planning applications later this year, and, it will be open to the Ramblers Association and other rights of way interests to make representations about their status as consultees.

Public Houses

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many building preservation notices were placed on public houses in each of the last three years; and if she will list them; [125070]

(2) how many successful appeals there were against building preservation notices placed on public houses in each of the last three years; and if she will list them. [125069]

Yvette Cooper: We have identified one public house, the Old Parr's Head in the London borough of Islington, which has been the subject of a building preservation notice over the last three years. That case did not result in the building being added to the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. There is no procedure for appealing against building preservation notices.

Regeneration: Finance

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name is of each organisation which has received funding from the Single Pot. [125878]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

Regional development agencies annually spend in excess of £1.7 billion of Single Pot funding with over 6,000 external organisations to deliver a variety of initiatives, services, and projects. The details of these transactions are not held centrally and so further information cannot be given owing to disproportionate costs.

Tattooing: Standards

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which councils in the UK operate a system of minimum standards and registration for tattoo parlours. [124888]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities in England have powers to regulate businesses providing tattooing under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The 1982 Act enables local authorities to require the registration of tattooing practitioners and premises and to introduce local byelaws about the hygiene of the practitioner, premises and equipment used.

Local tattooing byelaws are confirmed by the Secretary of State. However, information about those councils in England which have had local tattooing byelaws confirmed could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, as it would involve identifying, obtaining and examining departmental records dating back to 1982.

Local authorities in London generally use powers in private legislation to regulate tattooing businesses—the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1981 or the London Local Authorities Act 1991. Therefore, the Department does not hold the information requested relating to London local authorities.

Information relating to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland may be requested from the relevant administrations.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 474W, on the Valuation Office Agency, if she will give an example of a feature associated with a dwelling currently coded with WK that has value significance. [114574]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the VOA website at

www.voa.gov.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

13. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the level of child poverty in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [126374]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Work is the most sustainable route out of poverty. With record numbers of people in work, we are making good progress. This includes the Gentleman's constituency where there is an 82 per cent. employment rate—which is even better than the UK average.

Departmental Office Closures

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Chancellor of the Exchequer the effect of the closure of their Department's offices in North Northamptonshire on numbers of jobseeker's allowance claims in the area. [126375]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The number on JSA has fallen by a quarter in Wellingborough since May 1997. I have no current plans to meet the Home Secretary or the Chancellor to discuss these matters.

Personal Accounts

15. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what responses he has received to his Command Paper, "Personal accounts: a new way to save". [126376]

James Purnell: The consultation on the detailed proposals set out in the White Paper ends on 20 March. The proposal to establish personal accounts has been broadly welcomed in this House and by many others. The contribution on our detailed proposals ends next week. In light of these responses it is our intention to bring forward legislation in the next parliamentary session.

Pensions

16. **Sir George Young:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department has made available to those who lost occupational pensions prior to the introduction of the pensions protection fund. [126377]

James Purnell: The Pensions Act 2004 puts in place a range of measures to provide support, advice and protection to schemes and to scheme members.

In particular, the financial assistance scheme provides support for members of defined benefit occupational pension schemes which started to wind up, underfunded, between 1 January 1997 and 5 April 2005.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his oral statement in response to an intervention by the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 668-69, on the Pensions Bill, if he will ensure that personal accounts in which individuals are auto-enrolled are by default subject to lifestyling; and if he will make a statement. [123239]

James Purnell: There will be a requirement for personal accounts to include a default investment fund for members who do not exercise an investment choice. The default investment fund will be lifestyled to ensure that risk is reduced as members approach retirement.

Other investment choices will exist for members and will be determined by the executive delivery authority and, subsequently, the personal accounts governing body, using their skills, expertise and consideration of the pension's environment. These additional investment choices will take into account the needs of members and may or may not include lifestyling.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how he expects survivors' benefits to be arranged as an aspect of the personal accounts in the planned pension reform; in what circumstances and to whom a survivor's benefit will be paid; in what circumstances it would not be paid; what would happen to an individual's personal account money in those circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [123227]

James Purnell: Personal accounts will be a multi-employer occupational pension scheme. Arrangements for dealing with survivors' and dependants' benefits will be a matter for the scheme rules, as is the case for other occupational pensions, and will need to operate within the existing legal framework.

Benefits

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the claimant off-flow rates from *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* severe disability allowance were in each of the last 15 years, broken down by reason for leaving the benefit; [101750]

(2) how many payments for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* severe disability allowance payments were terminated (i) as a result of employment and (ii) for other reasons, broken down by reason in (A) each London borough and (B) the UK in each of the last five years. [101751]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of homes in each Government office region which had not received leaflets on the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning by December 2006. [123165]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not available in the format requested.

However, research commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive in 2006 from University college London suggests that some 45 per cent. of households have received no information about gas safety issues. The Government have called on the gas industry to show leadership in raising public awareness of gas safety issues among the public.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the Child Support Agency determines child maintenance amounts for payments between parents who are subject to a joint residency order with regard to the care of their child. [122128]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how the Child Support Agency determines child maintenance amounts for payments between parents who are subject to a Joint Residency Order with regard to the care of their child. [122128]

For a case under old rules where, a non-resident parent has care for a child for at least 104 nights a year (that is, two nights a week on average), an allowance can be made in the maintenance formula for sharing the care of that child. The maintenance payment due to the child is then reduced pro-rata by the number of nights a week the child stays with him.

For a shared-care case under the new rules, if a non-resident parent provides overnight care for a child for at least 52 nights a year, an adjustment is also made to the amount of child maintenance due.

Child maintenance is not reduced if the child stays with the non-resident parent for less than 52 nights a year.

If the care of the child is shared on a 50 per cent. basis, the entitlement to Child Benefit will determine who the parent with care is for child maintenance purposes.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he intends, under the system proposed in the White Paper 'A new system of child maintenance', that child maintenance cases where both parents' names appear on the birth certificate will be given priority over cases where the father is unknown. [123160]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no plans to give priority to child maintenance cases where both parents' names appear on the birth certificate. However, as now, a person who applies for child maintenance should provide sufficient information to identify the non-resident parent.

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the effectiveness of data collection and reporting systems at the Child Support Agency. [126358]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will review the effectiveness of data collection and reporting systems at the Child Support Agency. [126358]

Until 2005, the Agency's IT difficulties meant that robust information regarding cases on the new computer system was unavailable. In order to resolve these difficulties, the Agency begun working with the Department's Information Directorate (responsible for National Statistics and Business Information) to revise and quality assure statistical data. Since then, much progress has been made.

Under the Operational Improvement Plan the management information produced by the Child Support Agency is expanding and improving. Additional tables have been made available in each successive Quarterly Summary Statistics report since September 2005, and this report now provides a much fuller picture of the Agency's operations than has been available in the past.

The Agency's management information and data reporting is also undergoing an increasingly robust scrutiny process. Whilst this has resulted in the recalculation of some information previously reported, it represents an important part of a process to ensure the Child Support Agency has a highly effective process of data collection and reporting.

The Child Support Agencies Quarterly Summary Statistics can be accessed online at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department is making on achieving targets set out for the Child Support Agency under the operational improvement plan. [126361]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 12 March 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what progress his Department is making on achieving targets set out for the Child Support Agency under the Operational Improvement Plan. [126361]

The initial phase of the Operational Improvement Plan has focused on the organizational and operational restructuring of the Agency, and the training of our people to increase our capacity and capability. No commitments were made for the first year but once this phase is complete we can expect to see more clearly the benefits of the Plan.

However, even now early results show improvements in several key areas and more money is already getting to more children; at the end of December 2006 compared with a year ago the Agency was providing:

More money for more children—58,000 more children were in receipt of maintenance or had a maintenance-direct arrangement in place.

A higher proportion of non-resident parents paying or using maintenance direct—59 per cent of new scheme cases with a liability made a payment or arranged Maintenance Direct (up from 54 per cent)

A fall in uncleared applications of 13 per cent (across both schemes) since March 2006 which in the last three months have been at their lowest since comparable records began in May 1999.

Applications cleared more quickly: 55 per cent within twelve weeks (up from 49 per cent and meeting target level for March 2007) and 74 per cent within six months (up from 64 per cent)

Improving Client Service—The Agency answered 97 per cent of queued calls over 12 months (up from 90 per cent)

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departments: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many independent bodies existed to hear appeals on decisions made by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many there have been in 2006-07 to date. [121669]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following table.

	Independent bodies hearing appeals against decisions made by DWP agencies
1997-98	Social Security Appeal Tribunal
	Medical Appeal Tribunal
	Disability Appeal Tribunal
	Child Support Appeal Tribunal
	Vaccine Damage Tribunal
	Pensions Appeal Tribunal (England and Wales)
	Pensions Appeal Tribunal (Scotland)
2001-02	Appeal Tribunals
	Pensions Appeal Tribunal (England and Wales)[1]
	Pensions Appeal Tribunal (Scotland)[1]

	Independent bodies hearing appeals against decisions made by DWP agencies
2005-06	Appeal Tribunals
2006-07	Appeal Tribunals

[1] Responsibility for the administration of the War Pensions Agency transferred to the Ministry of Defence on 11 June 2001.

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints were received by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have been received in 2006-07 to date. [121668]

Mrs. McGuire: Centrally, the Department for Work and Pensions does not separately identify complaints from other forms of correspondence. Each of the Department's agencies and customer facing units has its own complaint handling procedures.

Jobcentre Plus was formed in 2001, from the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service. Information is not available from Jobcentre Plus for 1997-98 and 2001-02. The available information is in the following table:

Complaints received by Jobcentre Plus in Great Britain

	Number
2005-06	33,350
2006-07 (to January 2007)	31,635

The Pension Service was formed in April 2002. Information is not available from the Pension Service prior to this time. The available information is in the following table:

Complaints received by the Pension Service in Great Britain

	Number
2005-06	21,790
2006-07 (to January 2007)	15,042

Note:
The figure for 2006-07 includes 502 complaints from hon. Members, since October 2006. No such breakdown is available for previous years.

The Disability and Carers Service was first formed in 2002 as the Disability and Carers Division; it became an agency in November 2004. Information is not available from the Disability and Carers Service prior to January 2002. The available information is in the following table:

Complaints received by the Disability and Carers Service in Great Britain

	Number
January to March 2002 (4th quarter)	2,240
2005-06	6,732
2006-07 (to December 2006)	6,594

Note:
The figure for 2005-06 includes 2,804 complaints from hon. Members; the figure for 2006-07 includes 2,274 complaints from hon. Members. No such breakdown is available for previous periods.

The Department's Debt Management organisation was established in 2001 and became fully operational in February 2006. Information is not available from Debt Management prior to July 2005. The available information is in the following table:

Complaints received by DWP Debt Management in Great Britain

	Number
July 2005 to March 2006	1,639
April 2006 to January 2007	2,319

The Child Support Agency was formed in 1993 as an executive agency of the Department of Social Security; it became an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions on its formation in June 2001. The available information is in the following table:

Complaints received by Child Support Agency in Great Britain

	Number
1997-98	27,875
2001-02	27,735
2005-06	54,898
2006-07 (to January 2007)	37,408

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which external consultants were used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in relation to private finance initiatives in 2005-06; and what the (i) nature and (ii) cost of the work was in each case. [123008]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has one existing private finance initiative contract, let in 1998 and expanded in 2003, with Land Securities Trillium (LST) for the provision of fully serviced accommodation. To support the Department in the management of this complex PFI contract, external consultants have been commissioned to provide professional advice. The costs incurred by the Department in year 2005-6 are described in the table.

External consultants	*Nature of the work*	*Cost of the work in 2005-06 (£)*
Lovells.	To provide legal advice on the contract and contractual interpretation	221,151
Drivers Jonas – National Property and Facilities Management Advisers	To provide support on the departmental Estate Strategy, assurance on individual property transactions and support on specific commercial issues.	1;120,586
Parsons Brinckerhoff -Auditors	To provide a level of assurance on performance, quality and service delivery under the direction of Department's Contract Management team.	300,345

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the expenditure has been on *(a)* managing his Department's corporate identity and *(b)* branding in each year since 1997-98. [123167]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment, and the Employment Service. Information prior to 2001 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

To accommodate this change, the Department's corporate identity needed to be developed. This work included new branding design, staff research and consultation, and the application of the logos to key items such as stationery, building signs and electronic media. This cost for this was £232,044.

A review of our corporate identity was undertaken in 2004, which included a branding review. This was to support the organisational design with a new corporate image. The cost of this review was £92,751, and included design, product management and production.

We have this last year developed easy to understand guidelines for use by staff and also external organisations, so that the integrity of the Department's identity is upheld where it is used or displayed. The cost of the development and production of these guidelines has been £45,663.

Disability Allowances

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* disability living allowance and *(c)* severe disablement allowance there were in each year since its introduction, broken down by type of disability; and what the expenditure was in each case in each year. [116596]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Financial Assistance Scheme: Take-up

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have registered for assistance under the financial assistance scheme; [120243]

(2) how much has been paid out by the financial assistance scheme; [120306]

(3) how many people are receiving payments from the financial assistance scheme. [120307]

James Purnell: It is for the trustees of the pension schemes to apply for assistance rather than individual members. Of 995 schemes that have been notified to FAS, 659 have subsequently qualified. 'Notification' of a scheme occurs when trustees or members formally notify FAS of their scheme's basic details, after which a scheme can then be considered for FAS qualification. We estimate that 40,000 members of qualified schemes will be eligible for FAS. The vast majority of these potential recipients have yet to reach payment age and our best estimate is that perhaps 9,000 people are already 65.

On the basis of operational data to the end of December, we estimate that trustees have made applications for assistance for 1,900 people. We are only able to pay them once the trustees have provided acceptable data on the members, which is taking longer than we had hoped.

As at 23 February 2007 the financial assistance scheme was making payments to 967 qualifying members. A further 79 will be paid as soon as they have confirmed their personal details. This gives a total of 1,046 members who have been assessed as eligible for assistance.

As at 23 February 2007 payments had totalled £3,421,457 gross, (£2,656,622 net).

Housing Benefit

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests to suspend the direct payment of local housing allowance to tenants have been received by local authorities in the 18 pathfinder areas; how many have resulted in the suspension of direct payments to tenants; and if he will make a statement. [125028]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Housing: Repossession Orders

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households in the private sector in each of the 18 Pathfinder areas have *(a)* accrued arrears, *(b)* been served with a notice of possession and *(c)* been evicted; and if he will make a statement; [122410]

(2) what proportion of local housing allowance claimants in each of the 18 Pathfinder areas have *(a)* accrued arrears, *(b)* been served a notice of possession and *(c)* been evicted; and if he will make a statement. [122411]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of new incapacity benefit claims were for reasons of mental ill health in the last period for which figures are available. [126372]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In the year to May 2006, 34.5 per cent. of all new incapacity benefit claimants cited mental and behavioural conditions as the primary reason for their claim.

We are working with stakeholders as part of our welfare reform plans to address the many barriers people with mental health conditions still face in playing their full role in the economy and the workplace.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants ceased to claim the benefit in each year from 1976-77 to 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [102235]

Mrs. McGuire: There is a strong relationship between on-flows and off-flows from incapacity benefit, and generally, both have been falling year on year as a proportion of the caseload. So falling off-flows are a result of falling on-flows.

Information is not available prior to 1996. The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit terminations in the year ending February each year as a proportion of the caseload

	Percentage
1996	38.5
1997	39.4
1998	38.8
1999	36.6
2000	35.4
2001	29.3
2002	29.1
2003	27.9
2004	27.5
2005	27.5
2006	24.6

Notes:
1.These figures have been updated to include late notified terminations, including terminations for retirement pension.
2. All figures have been revised, and may be subject to further change; Figures prior to 2004 are subject to minor changes. Figures for 2004 include fewer late notifications than previous quarters and will be subject to greater change in future. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. For illustration purposes, total terminations for May 2004 increased by 33 per cent. in the year following their initial release.
Source:
5 per cent. Terminations dataset and 100 per cent. WPLS

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated on-flows for incapacity benefits are for each year to 2019-20, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* the age groups (i) 18 to 29, (ii) 30 to 39, (iii) 40 to 49, (iv) 50 to 59 and (v) 60 years and over. [124077]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Projected number of on-flows to Incapacity Benefit, 2005-06 to 2019-20, Great Britain, by age group

Thousand

	16-17yrs	18-29yrs	30-39yrs	40-49yrs	50-59yrs	60yrs and over	All age groups
2005-06	10	150	130	140	150	30	610
2006-07	10	150	120	140	140	30	590
2008-09	10	150	110	140	130	30	570
2009-10	10	140	110	130	130	30	560
2010-11	10	140	110	140	130	30	560
2011-12	10	150	110	140	130	50	580
2012-13	10	150	110	140	130	50	580
2013-14	10	150	110	140	140	50	590
2014-15	10	150	110	130	140	50	590
2015-16	10	150	110	130	140	60	600
2016-17	10	150	110	130	140	60	600
2017-18	10	150	110	130	150	60	610
2018-19	10	140	120	120	150	70	610
2019-20	10	140	120	120	150	70	620

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000; totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures are consistent with latest estimated caseloads. These are based on pre-Budget report forecasts to 2007-08, and long-term projections consistent with the long-term public finance report from 2008-09 onwards; the projections are illustrative based on the continuation of current policy combined with the equalisation of state pension age. See http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/ib_caseload.xls
3. Figures are subject to future revisions.
4. These projections do not take into account any of the proposed policy changes in the papers entitled: "A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work", or "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system."

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals who would otherwise qualify for incapacity benefit are affected by *(a)* whole and *(b)* partial withdrawal of benefit owing to their receipt of an occupational pension; and what the total annual benefit forgone from this clawback was in each of the last five years. [124080]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the following tables.

Number of incapacity benefit claimants whose benefit payable is reduced as a result of receiving income from an occupational pension and associated total benefit expenditure forgone

	Claimants (thousand)	Annual incapacity benefit foregone (£ million—2006-07 prices)
2001-02	4	5
2002-03	13	17
2003-04	22	29
2004-05	27	38
2005-06	33	45

Number of incapacity benefit claimants whose benefit payable is reduced to zero as a result of receiving income from an occupational pension and associated total benefit expenditure forgone

	Claimants (thousand)	Annual incapacity benefit foregone (£ million—2006-07 prices)
2001-02	1	4

Number of incapacity benefit claimants whose benefit payable is reduced to zero as a result of receiving income from an occupational pension and associated total benefit expenditure foregone

	Claimants (thousand)	Annual incapacity benefit foregone (£ million—2006-07 prices)
2002-03	4	13
2003-04	5	20
2004-05	7	25
2005-06	8	29

Notes:
1. Figures for claimants are rounded to the nearest thousand and expenditure to the nearest million.
2. Income from occupational pension schemes was introduced in the assessment of entitlement to incapacity benefit in April 2001.

Source:
The DWP Quarterly Statistical Enquiry data, the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and the DWP medium-term benefit expenditure tables

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit recipients in each Government region experienced *(a)* mental and behavioural and *(b)* physical disorders in each year since 1997, broken down by type of disorder. [124081]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to answer of 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1630W, on Jobcentre Plus, what methodology the Department used to generate the estimates. [124090]

Mrs. McGuire: Forecasts of incapacity benefits are constructed by extending historic patterns in benefit on-flows and off-flows into the future. Events such as entering the benefit, moving between rates, gaining additional entitlements and leaving the benefit are simulated on the basis past trends examined by age and gender. Assumptions covering these events give rise to a predicted future caseload.

Jobseekers Allowance: Disqualification

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* fixed and *(b)* varied length referrals were made to jobseeker's allowance claimants in each quarter since 1997; and how many of each type of referral resulted in a benefit sanction being imposed in each quarter. [123581]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* Jobseeker's allowance sanctions information is not available prior to April 2000. The available information is in the tables.

Number of referrals made for fixed length sanctions on jobseeker's allowance; Great Britain

Quarter ending, in which decision was made	Number of referrals	Number of referrals which resulted in a sanction
April-May 2000	11,120	5,650
August 2000	16,610	8,380
November 2000	17,930	8,470
February 2001	17,140	8,330
May 2001	17,890	8,620
August 2001	17,790	8,380
November 2001	17,160	7,790
February 2002	15,250	7,040
May 2002	18,480	8,530
August 2002	18,480	8,630
November 2002	17,550	8,250
February 2003	15,540	7,660
May 2003	16,590	8,250
August 2003	16,890	8,530
November 2003	15,900	7,760
February 2004	14,340	7,010
May 2004	14,470	7,170
August 2004	15,390	7,580
November 2004	15,430	7,530
February 2005	13,840	7,020
May 2005	15,120	7,680
August 2005	14,500	7,520
November 2005	13,590	7,040
February 2006	13,310	6,960
May 2006	15,700	8,340
August 2006	17,020	8,750

Number of referrals made for variable length sanctions on jobseeker's allowance; Great Britain

Quarter ending, in which decision was made	Number of referrals	Number of referrals which resulted in a sanction
April-May 2000	75,350	18,090
August 2000	124,530	29,070
November 2000	127,780	28,480
February 2001	117,740	28,320
May 2001	117,160	29,140
August 2001	122,310	29,990
November 2001	113,330	28,230
February 2002	102,750	26,230
May 2002	114,480	29,700
August 2002	114,580	30,080
November 2002	121,200	31,290
February 2003	106,920	28,480
May 2003	95,710	26,520
August 2003	88,410	24,500
November 2003	89,840	23,890
February 2004	87,120	23,340
May 2004	84,470	23,200
August 2004	82,340	22,120
November 2004	83,000	21,320
February 2005	74,130	19,690
May 2005	76,000	20,620
August 2005	71,590	19,190
November 2005	68,770	17,950
February 2006	61,630	16,000
May 2006	64,370	16,080
August 2006	59,790	14,730

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database; data are cumulative from April 2000 to current data extract date.

Lone Parents: Employment

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what evidence his Department has collected on the barriers to work for lone parents with children aged over 11. [126364]

Mr. Jim Murphy: A large majority of lone parents say that they want to work. We want to provide lone parents with the help and support to enable them to do so. We understand that in order to do this we need to address the barriers that lone parents face in returning to work. The Department collects a range of evidence on the choices and constraints faced by lone parents in making decisions about paid work. Many of these have also been raised in two independent reviews by Lisa Marker and David Freud. We will need to consider these reports carefully before we move ahead.

New Deal

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of new deal leavers entered sustained, unsubsidised jobs in each year since the scheme began. [111293]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

Percentage of leavers to sustained unsubsidised employment from new deal

	New deal for young people	*New deal 25 plus*	*New deal for lone parents*
1998	51	—	9
1999	45	—	20
2000	43	—	31
2001	42	32	35
2002	40	28	35
2003	40	27	31
2004	39	30	30
2005	34	28	28

Notes:
1. Years are calendar years.
2. Latest complete year information is to December 2005.
3. The percentages in the table are calculated from all those who leave the programme, regardless of whether they directly enter employment.
4. A person is defined as leaving new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus to sustained, unsubsidised, employment if they do not return to claim jobseeker's allowance within 13 weeks.
5. Information for leavers from new deal 25 plus is only available from April 2001 onwards.
6. A person is defined as leaving new deal for lone parents to sustained, unsubsidised, employment if they have gained a job that lasts at least 13 weeks, as measured within the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
7. A measure of sustainability is not available for new deal for partners and new deal 50 plus.
8. Although a measure of sustainability is available for new deal for disabled people (NDDP), information is not available on whether the immediate destination of leavers from NDDP is to sustained, unsubsidised, employment.
9. Start dates for each programme are: New Deal for Young People: January 1998; New Deal 25 Plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Personal Accounts Consultation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have responded to the personal accounts consultation process. [118766]

James Purnell: We received around 350 responses to the consultation on the May 2006 White Paper, "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system". The range of measures set out in this document included proposals on personal accounts.

Further proposals for personal accounts were set out in the December White Paper "Personal accounts: a new way to save". The formal consultation on this is due to end on 20 March. As of 2 February we have so far received a total of nine responses; six from business and three from individuals.

However, the consultation is still under way and we expect the majority of responses to come in close to the consultation deadline.

Personal Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median income for a *(a)* man and *(b)* woman aged (i) 21 to 25, (ii) 25 to 30, (iii) 30 to 40, (iv) 40 to 50, (v) 50 to 60, (vi) 60 to 65, (vii) 65 to 75, (viii) 75 to 85 and (ix) over 85 was in each year since 1980. [117852]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information on individual earnings and income for Great Britain is available in the "Individual Income 1996-97 to 2004-05" publication.

Consistent figures for male and female median incomes are not available prior to 1996-97. Details of median income from 1996-97 to 2004-05 for men and women are shown in the following tables:

Median total individual income, by age-band from 1996-97 to 2004-05—Men (£ per week at 2004-05 prices)

	16-20	*21-25*	*26-30*	*31-40*	*41-50*	*51-60*	*61-65*	*66-75*	*76-85*	*86 and over*
1996-97	89	215	328	373	397	308	208	172	136	134

Median total individual income, by age-band from 1996-97 to 2004-05—Men (£ per week at 2004-05 prices)

	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-65	66-75	76-85	86 and over
1997-98	98	227	328	381	400	324	222	168	140	137
1998-99	114	230	341	391	392	328	221	176	140	138
1999-2000	112	231	339	398	403	343	221	181	152	142
2000-01	130	250	362	419	411	340	234	192	155	147
2001-02	125	248	355	424	429	354	244	196	165	147
2002-03	125	246	359	422	431	360	241	201	172	162
2003-04	114	242	355	426	430	354	249	207	174	181
2004-05	98	253	360	428	439	374	252	211	183	172

Source:
Family Resources Survey—Individual Incomes

Median total individual income, by age-band from 1996-97 to 2004-05—Women (£ per week at 2004-05 prices)

	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-65	66-75	76-85	86 and over
1996-97	87	153	182	163	178	120	89	91	95	108
1997-98	88	164	185	166	172	128	99	89	97	112
1998-99	95	165	209	181	183	127	102	94	101	118
1999-2000	100	179	212	195	188	139	104	98	104	123
2000-01	106	186	226	200	204	130	102	100	106	116
2001-02	106	192	236	214	214	146	111	104	111	130
2002-03	100	198	243	223	213	158	116	108	113	129
2003-04	99	197	265	230	230	166	118	112	118	141
2004-05	99	206	255	233	236	169	129	113	131	143

Source:
Family Resources Survey—Individual Incomes

Poverty: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of children were living below the poverty line in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [125313]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is not available.

Specific information regarding low income for Great Britain is available in "Households Below Average Income statistical report 1994/95-2004/05". The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income. Data are not available below regional level so we are not able to provide figures for Lancashire.

Remploy

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made with the review of Remploy. [126371]

Mrs. McGuire: To help develop a five-year restructuring plan the Remploy Board has established a joint working group with the consortium of trade unions, has held informal discussions with other key stakeholders, and is considering proposals for modernising the company to help greater numbers of disabled people into work.

Social Security Benefits: Pensions

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether personal pension accounts will be disregarded for capital assessments in income-related benefits; at what age income from personal pension accounts will be attributed in the assessment of income-related benefits; and what the method of assessment will be of proposed rate of income attribution. [119424]

James Purnell: The introduction of personal accounts will extend the benefits of private pension saving to those on moderate to low income who do not have access to a good employer pension scheme. Together with the reforms to the state pension system which will provide a solid foundation on which to build, this is designed to encourage and support individuals in saving for their retirement.

Personal accounts will be designed to complement rather than compete with existing successful pension provision. We therefore think it is right that funds from all savings or pensions vehicles are treated in the same way, and there are no plans to treat funds associated with personal accounts differently.

The rules, which will also apply to personal accounts, allow funds held under a personal pension scheme by a customer or partner to be disregarded in the calculation of a customer's capital in income-related benefits—income support, jobseeker's allowance (income-based) housing benefit, council tax benefit and pension credit-until the holder reaches the age of 60.

If at any age the holder receives income from the personal pension scheme, that income will be taken fully into account in the assessment of entitlement to an income-related benefit.

However, if a customer aged 60 or over fails to claim the income to which he would be entitled or fails to purchase an annuity with the funds available, the customer will be treated as possessing the amount of income forgone from the date on which it could have been expected to be claimed.

Up to 25 per cent. of any personal pension can be taken as a lump sum, and if this option is taken, that lump sum will be treated as capital for the purposes of income related support in the normal way.

Those with savings pots below £15,000 may take advantage of the trivial commutation rules and take their full savings pot as a taxable lump sum. When someone opts to do that, the lump sum will be subject to the normal capital rules within the income- related benefits.

Social Security Benefits: Poverty

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of how many and what percentage of eligible but not receiving claimants for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* jobseeker's allowance and *(d)* council tax benefit are (i) living below the 60 per cent. relative poverty line and (ii) in each income decile. [124082]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is not available in the format requested.

Estimates of the percentage of eligible non-recipients of pension credit, jobseeker's allowance (income-based) and council tax benefit living below the 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, and the proportions in each quintile of the income distribution, can be found in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2004/2005". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

Information on incapacity benefit is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Take-up

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which regions there is low take-up of *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* housing benefit; and what steps are being taken to increase take-up in such regions. [124801]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up are not available below the level of Great Britain. The latest estimates of the take-up of the main income-related benefits—income support, pension credit, housing benefit-council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) in Great Britain—can be found in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2004/2005". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

We are doing a lot to improve take-up. Pensioners applying for pension credit can now access housing benefit and council tax benefit over the phone at the same time via the Pension Service.

The Pension Service is undertaking a wide range of steps to encourage eligible pensioners to claim pension credit—for example, writing to everyone who may have an entitlement to pension credit, encouraging them to apply.

The Pension Service local service is also continuing to work very closely with local partners (including local authorities as well as voluntary organisations such as Help the Aged and Age Concern) to maximise take up by pensioners of all of their entitlements.

Training: Basic Skills

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many client referrals were made from jobcentres to training providers who have won contracts for the provision of basic skills under Learning and Skills Council funding in each of the last six months. [123155]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

Referrals to Learning and Skills Council basic skills provision

	Number
October	307
November	763
December	946
January	887

Note:
Referrals did not start until late September. The September figures are included in October data as many providers were not set up to accept referrals until October or later.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Business Information System.

Voluntary Organisations: Catholic Church

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was to the public purse of funding for Catholic welfare agencies, excluding those providing housing or adoption services, in each year since 1997. [119979]

Mr. Jim Murphy: *[holding answer 19 February 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was formed in June 2001 from the Department of Social Security (DSS), the Employment Service (ES) and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment (DfEE). Any financial information would only be available from that time.

The Department for Work and Pensions has not provided any direct funding for Catholic welfare agencies.

The Department's agencies have links with many voluntary and charitable organisations and in a number of cases have entered into contracts with them. However, it is not possible to say if payments have been made to any particular faith-based agencies as no record is kept of a supplier's religious affiliation.

I announced on 19 February that I have asked the Department's commercial director to develop a centre of expertise within the procurement team working with the third sector, to specifically cover the needs of faith-based groups. In doing this, I want to make sure that access to contracts for faith groups can be on an even footing with all other private and voluntary sector organisations who wish to compete to deliver our services.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 March 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

House of Lords: Powers

Andrew George: To ask the Leader of the House what plans he has to define the *(a)* powers and *(b)* functions of the House of Lords in future legislation. [127290]

Mr. Straw: Following the vote in the House of Lords on 14 March 2007 on composition of a reformed House, I propose to reconvene the cross-party talks, which I chair, to assess the outcome of the debates in both Houses. The Government will consider the next move and I will return to this House to make a detailed statement on the way forward.

House of Lords: Reform

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Leader of the House if he will estimate the annual cost of a fully elected upper house. [127296]

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what estimate he has made of the likely capital cost of new *(a)* facilities and *(b)* equipment for a reformed House of Lords; [126857]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* percentage and *(b)* actual change in running costs likely to arise from a reformed House of Lords under each option outlined in the Motions debated on 6 and 7 March in the House. [126868]

Mr. Straw: Detailed analysis will be provided once the proposals for a reformed House of Lords are much firmer. I propose to reconvene the cross-party group, which I chair, to assess the outcome of the debates in both Houses. I will discuss the issue within Government and will return to this House to make a detailed statement on the way forward.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many cattle were compulsorily slaughtered owing to bovine tuberculosis in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* home country and *(b)* county; [125690]

(2) how many *(a)* cattle and *(b)* herds were tested for bovine tuberculosis in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) home country and (ii) county. [125691]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Libraries of the House. Detailed county statistics for 1998-2005 are also available on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/stats/county.htm

Flood Control

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* creating natural wetlands, *(b)* the restoration of natural flood plains and *(c)* the use of vegetation and planting to trap and direct flood water; and what steps he is taking to encourage such methods; [124946]

(2) what area his Department added to existing *(a)* natural wetland, *(b)* restoration of natural flood plains and *(c)* flood defence walls to prevent flooding in populated areas in each of the last three years for which records are available; [124947]

(3) how much his Department spent on the *(a)* creation of natural wetland, *(b)* restoration of natural flood plains and *(c)* flood defence walls to prevent flooding in populated areas in each of the last three years for which records are available. [124948]

Ian Pearson: In 2004-05 and 2005-06 the Environment Agency spent £17.7 million on wetland habitat and species conservation in England and this included the creation of 943 hectares of Biodiversity Action Plan habitat, of which 809 hectares were floodplain habitats.

Data collation on wetland habitat creation expenditure and delivery commenced in 2004-05 and the figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

From their records, the Environment Agency's direct expenditure on flood walls in each of the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 in completed major capital projects was £10.5 million, £13.7 million and £35 million respectively. The total construction cost of projects which included these walls was £31 million in 2003-04, £37.3 million in 2004-05 and £81.9 million in 2005-06.

These costs relate only to major capital projects (those with a construction cost in excess of circa £250,000) undertaken by the Environment Agency that were completed during these periods.

One of the aims of "Making Space for Water, the Government's strategy for flood and costal erosion risk management", is to work with natural processes and develop multiple objective approaches that deliver flood risk management and, where possible, other benefits such as environmental, amenity or regeneration.

"Making Space for Water" provides the policy framework for more holistic approaches to flood and coastal erosion risk management. It is drawing on the lessons learnt within the regions at numerous freshwater and saline wetland creation sites. The creation of new targets (Outcome Measures), for all operating authorities, will ensure that habitat creation and the restoration of natural flood plains form a central part of future investment decision making.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to the National Energy Efficiency scheme in each year since 1997. [125932]

Ian Pearson: While there is no single, national energy efficiency scheme, we do have a UK Energy Efficiency Action Plan (published in 2004). This brings together all of our separate funding streams and associated policies into a framework for improving energy efficiency across the business, public and household sectors. Energy efficiency policies deliver about half the carbon savings in our Climate Change Programme. Details on the funding for these various schemes is provided in the following table:

£ million

	Carbon Trust formed 2001	Energy Saving Trust	Warm front 2000 inception	Climate change communication	Community energy	UK emissions trading scheme
1997-98	n/a	19.45	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99	n/a	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	22.57	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	21.97	[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	[2]	22.396	[1]	n/a	n/a	[3]
2002-03	[2]	23.696	[1]	n/a	0.43	[3]
2003-04	[2]	24.481	[1]	n/a	4.31	[3]
2004-05	[2]	27.372	[1]	n/a	4.9	[3]
2005-06	[2]	26.44	[1]	[4]12	5.24	[3]

[1] Total expenditure since 2000 now over £1.2 billion.
[2] £207 million total expenditure from 2001-02 to 2005-06.
[3] £215 million for five year programme.
[4] For three year programme.

The funding information provided in the table is not the end of the story as our policies also help generate additional investment. For example, the Energy Efficiency Commitment, our key household policy lever, generated £600 million worth of energy efficiency investment in households in the first three year phase to 2005 alone. We are committed to an obligation on energy suppliers to at least 2020.

Pollution Control: Fees and Charges

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the average percentage of *(a)* net profits and *(b)* turnover for (i) small farms and (ii) large farms which is represented by the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Regulation charges of (A) £1,471 and (B) £1,844. [122630]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Regulation charges quoted are the pro rata charges which the Environment Agency would apply in respect of permits for intensive livestock installations issued in August 2007 covering the period to March 2008. The annual permit charges thereafter are currently set at £2,229 and £2,794 for small and large installations respectively.

IPPC applies to intensive poultry rearing installations with places for more than 40,000 birds, and to intensive pig rearing installations with places for more than 2,000 production pigs or 750 sows. For charging purposes, any installation with places more than 10 times these thresholds is regarded as "large".

Information on profits and turnover is held on a basis in which large farm businesses are those considered sufficient to occupy two or more standard labour requirements. Standard labour requirement (SLR) for a farm business represents the labour requirement (in full-time equivalents) for all the agricultural activities on the farm. All intensive livestock installations subject to IPPC are "large" in these terms.

For poultry installations, annual charges for IPPC permits represent on average 0.2 per cent. of turnover and 5.0 per cent. of net profits, or 0.3 per Cent. and 6.2 per cent. respectively if it is a "large" installation for IPPC purposes. For pig installations, the corresponding figures are 0.4 per cent. and 3.5 per cent, or 0.5 per cent and 4.4 per cent.

Radioactive Materials: Floods

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government has made of the potential *(a)* environmental and *(b)* public health consequences of (i) storm-related and (ii) sea-related flooding of a (A) nuclear power plant and (B) radioactive waste storage site. [123412]

Ian Pearson: Assessments of these flood risks are addressed as part of standard regulatory processes.

The safety of nuclear installations in the UK is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), which is part of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Nuclear installations include all UK nuclear power plants and the Low Level Radioactive Waste Repository (LLWR) near to Drigg in Cumbria. Such installations must be licensed under the Nuclear Installations Act (1965). The safety of a nuclear plant is the responsibility of the licensee, who is required to submit to the NII a written demonstration of safety, the 'safety case'.

NII requires that operators' safety cases address internal and external hazards, including various types of flooding. NII assesses the operators' safety cases to establish whether they are adequate. Safety cases are 'living documents' which are periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changing conditions. Changes in flood risk, whether due to changes in natural phenomena or man-made, are taken into account during such reviews.

The environment agencies (the Environment Agency in England and Wales, and the Scottish Environment

Protection Agency in Scotland) regulate disposals of radioactive waste. The environment agencies would require any applicant wishing to develop a proposed disposal facility to assess impacts from a wide range of events and processes including those such as coastal erosion. This is in order to demonstrate that risks associated with radioactivity and other potential hazards would be acceptably low. Impacts from coastal erosion were considered in some detail during a recent review of the radioactive waste disposal authorisation for the LLWR near to Drigg in Cumbria.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Victims and Survivors

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made in the inquiry by Peter Scott, QC into criticisms made by Mr. Justice Girvan of the Northern Ireland Office. [127258]

The Solicitor-General: Since I last updated the House, Mr. Scott has received a further 28 lever-arch files of documentation, bringing the total to 41 files. Most of the documents comprise the files maintained contemporaneously by the two departments concerned, and require careful scrutiny to identify those which are central to the matters which Mr. Scott is investigating.

Mr. Scott has sent questionnaires to 17 potential witnesses and received responses from 14 of them to date. He expects to receive the outstanding responses by the middle of this month. There may be one or two other witnesses whom he will also want to question in due course.

When he has completed his scrutiny of the documentation, Mr. Scott will interview any witness of whom he requires further information or clarification of their statement. Some of those interviews will take place in Belfast later this month and the remainder in London, probably in April and May. He will submit his report to the Attorney-General as soon as possible after completing those interviews and taking any steps which may emerge from them and are necessary to complete his report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Courts: Salisbury

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she expects *(a)* construction to start on the new courthouses in Salisbury and *(b)* the new courts to come into service. [126434]

Ms Harman: We expect that construction on the new courthouse in Salisbury will commence by the end of July 2007, with the courts coming into service in the summer of 2009.

Judges: Housing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will assess the merits of providing judges with an accommodation allowance per night to be spent either on lodgings or on hotel accommodation at their discretion; if she will estimate the change in costs which would result from the introduction of such a system; and if she will make a statement. [125996]

Ms Harman: While the provision of judges' lodgings is kept under constant review, and the comparative cost of hotels considered, there is presently no intention to provide judges with an independent accommodation allowance while simultaneously running lodgings.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what *(a)* estimate she has made of the cost and *(b)* assessment she has made of the merits of providing judges with hotel accommodation instead of judges' lodgings in each location where lodgings are situated; and if she will make a statement. [125997]

Ms Harman: A straight comparison of the cost between housing judges in hotels or accommodating them in lodgings is not easily made. Judges' lodgings are an essential requirement for accommodating high court judges sitting outside of London. They provide a safe and secure environment and enable the judges to work in privacy and ensure confidentiality for extended periods, which hotels are unable to match except at prohibitive cost.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will discontinue judges' lodgings where they are occupied by judges for less than 50 nights in the year; and if she will make a statement. [125998]

Ms Harman: In the current locations where we have a requirement for less than 50 judge nights per year we do not own lodgings; instead we rent them.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what changes to the *(a)* arrangements for and *(b)* availability of judges' lodgings have been made since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [126092]

Ms Harman: The following are the major changes that have taken place since 1997:

The lodgings at Mold was closed.

The lodgings at Exeter, Lewes, Oxford and Truro have been replaced with better value accommodation.

There have been a significant number of actions to reduce running costs including the removal of the outdated butler posts.

A more cost-effective system for getting judges to court has been introduced using the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Introduction of new finance and accounting regimes reducing the management overheads of running the lodgings.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which five judges' lodgings had *(a)* the lowest occupancy in judge nights and *(b)* the highest cost per judge night in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [126093]

Ms Harman: The five judges' lodgings with the lowest occupancy in judge nights during 2005-06 (all of which are hired, not owned) were Warwick, Caernarfon, Lincoln, Northampton and Worcester.

The highest cost per judge night during 2005-06 were Maidstone, Swansea, Winchester, St. Albans and Chelmsford.

The Maidstone lodging is being sold.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which judges' lodgings are held *(a)* freehold, *(b)* leasehold and *(c)* by other arrangements; what other such arrangements there are; and if she will make a statement. [126094]

Ms Harman: A schedule showing rights of occupation is detailed as follows.

Property name	*Freehold*	*Leasehold*	*Licence*	*Hiring*
Birmingham judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Bristol judges' lodgings	—	√	—	—
Caernarfon judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Cardiff judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Carlisle judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Chelmsford judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Chester judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Exeter judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Kingston Upon Hull	—	—	—	√
Leeds judges' lodging	—	√	—	—
Leicester judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Lewes judges' lodging	—	—	—	√
Lincoln judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Liverpool judges' lodgings	—	√	—	—
Maidstone judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Manchester judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Newcastle judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Northampton judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Norwich judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Nottingham judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Oxford judges' lodgings	—	—	—	√
Plymouth judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Preston judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Reading judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Sheffield judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
St. Albans Judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Stafford judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Swansea judges' lodgings	√	—	—	—
Truro judges' lodgings	—	—	—	√
Warwick judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—
Winchester judges' lodgings	—	√	—	—
Worcester judges' lodgings	—	—	√	—

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions she has held with the judiciary on the *(a)* cost and *(b)* future of judges' lodgings; and if she will make a statement. [126095]

Ms Harman: My officials are in regular discussion with the judiciary regarding both the cost and future of judges' lodgings.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Art: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Government funding local artists in Lancashire received in each of the last five years. [127117]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the Arts Council's funding commitments to local artists in Lancashire between 2003-04 and 2005-06. Local artists are defined as individual artists living in Lancashire. Grant in aid funding information for individual artists in the years preceding 2003-04 is not available.

	Grant in aid (£)
2003-04	41,021
2004-05	134,501
2005-06	83,522

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on arts projects in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [126151]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the Arts Council's funding commitments to arts projects in Lancashire between 2001-02 and 2005-06. Arts projects are defined as time-limited activities. Grant in aid funding information for time-limited projects in the years preceding 2003-04 is not available.

	Grant in Aid	*Lottery*	£ *Total*
2001-02	—	1,116,512	1,116,512
2002-03	—	424,326	424,326
2003-04	41,021	1,518,624	1,559,645
2004-05	137,511	1,251,303	1,388,814
2005-06	59,514	951,811	1,011,325

Culture: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* museums and *(b)* theatres (i) opened and (ii) closed in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [126155]

Mr. Lammy: No Arts Council England-funded theatres have opened or closed in Lancashire in any of the last five years. Information on local authority funded museums and theatres, or independent museums and theatres, is not held centrally.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126796]

Mr. Lammy: During the last five years, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has applied for only one work permit. The Royal Parks, which is an agency of the Department, has applied for no work permits during the last five years.

Gaming Clubs

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of the hon. Member for North East Cambridgeshire of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1403W, on gaming clubs, which of the members appointed to the Casino Advisory Panel had skills and experience at a senior and strategic level in the regeneration of disadvantaged areas. [126813]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* Biographical details of the five individuals selected to become the Chair and members of the Casino Advisory Panel were included in the press release, issued on 30 September 2005, which announced the establishment of the Panel.

The press release is available on the Panel's website at www.culture.gov.uk/cap <http://www.culture.gov.uk/cap>. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

Gaming Clubs: Licensing

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a more detailed record is available of the meetings of the Casino Advisory Panel of 8 and 15 November 2006 in respect of which minutes have already been made available. [126762]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* The minute of the Casino Advisory Panel's meeting of 8 and 15 November 2006, (a single meeting which lasted two days), which is available on the Panel's website at www.culture.gov.uk/cap <http://www.culture.gov.uk/cap>, is the full record of that meeting. I am arranging for copies of the minute to be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what basis the Casino Advisory Panel made its assessment of willingness to license in respect of applicants in the regional casino category. [126763]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* The basis on which the Casino Advisory Panel made its assessment of willingness to license in respect of applicants in the regional casino category is set out in paragraphs 105 and 106 of its final report to the Secretary of State. The report is available on the Panel's website at www.culture.gov.uk/cap <http://www.culture.gov.uk/cap> and copies have been placed in the House Library.

Lotteries: Licensing

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of a licence for *(a)* remote and *(b)* non-remote lottery in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07; and if she will re-open consultation with the Lotteries Council and the Hospice Lotteries Association on the cost of lottery licences. [127013]

Mr. Lammy: The information is set out as follows:

Lotteries fees[1]	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
>£200,000[2]	454	468	487
>£50,000[2]	303	312	324
>£20,000[2]	104	107	111
>£10,000[2]	104	107	111
<£10,000[2]	104	107	111
Registration Fee (Society)	4,810	4,954	5,152
Registration Fee (Local Authority)	4,810	4,954	5,152
Renewal Fee (Local Authority and Society)	188	194	202
Lottery Manager	14,850	15,295	15,907

[1] Licence fees were set under the provisions Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 and were payable for non-remote licences only.
[2] Lottery with turnover (total value of tickets sold).
Note:
Under the Gambling Act 2005, licence fees are payable for both non-remote and remote provision.

Application fees (from 1 January 2007)

	Non-remote					*Remote*		
Operating licence type	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Society lotteries	165	247	329	—	—	165	247	329
Lottery Manager	988	1,647	2,306	—	—	988	1,647	2,306

Annual fees (from 1 September 2007)

	Non-remote					*Remote*		
Operating licence type	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Society lotteries	348	692	1,392	—	—	2,72	4,370	6,361
Lottery Manager	1,981	2,261	2,541	—	—	12,733	34,176	66,341

Following representations from the Lotteries Council and the Hospice Lotteries Association, the Department has accepted advice from the Gambling Commission that the level of annual remote fees for society lotteries should be lowered to the same level as non-remote society operators i.e. £348, £692 and £1,392. The Department intends to lay amending regulations in April.

Millennium Dome

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley (John Hemming) of 24 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 898W, on the Millennium Dome, what the cost was of the Millennium Dome to public funds in each year since its inception. [126493]

Mr. Caborn: Information on the grants from national lottery funds which were made by the Millennium Commission to the New Millennium Experience Co. (NMEC), are set out in the following table.

National lottery grant

	£ million
1997-98	499
1998-99	0
1999-2000	60
2000-01	119
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	[1]0
2005-06	[2]0
2006-07	[3]0

[1] £24 million—unrequired funds decommitted from NMEC by the Millennium Commission for use on other projects.
[2] £1 million—unrequired funds decommitted from NMEC by the Millennium Commission for use on other projects.
[3] £3 million—unrequired funds decommitted from NMEC by the Millennium Commission for use on other projects.

In addition, English Partnerships has been meeting management, maintenance, security and other costs at the site from 1 July 2001, and will continue to do so until the redevelopment of the arena by the Anschutz Entertainment Group is completed, expected in summer 2007, at which time Anschutz takes on full responsibility for the dome structure and its immediate surroundings.

All of English Partnerships' costs (gross total of around £32 million to date) from July 2001 to the completion of the arena's construction, and including the costs of the entire sale process, are expected to be recovered from sale proceeds, forecast at £550 million over the period of the deal, which lasts for around another 19 years.

The year-by-year English Partnerships maintenance and other costs to date have been as follows:

English Partnerships maintenance and other costs

	£ million
2001-02	2.299
2002-03	2.952
2003-04	2.586
2004-05	1.726
2005-06	0.364
2006-07	[1]0.294
Total	10.238

[1] Figures to December 2006.

In addition, English Partnerships spent £6.7 million on decommissioning some of the dome's contents, £0.558 million on a one-off payment for insurance and £14.5 million on the sale process between March 1999 and June 2004.

Museums and Galleries: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people visited museums in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [126153]

Mr. Lammy: As part of the 'Best Value' framework for assessing service delivery at the local government level, single tier and county councils report visits to/usage of museums per thousand of the population. The definitions used in Best Value Performance Indicator 170 (BV170) can be downloaded from the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1136118>

and the data provided by local authorities in any given year can be downloaded from the Audit Commission's website at:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/dataprovision.asp>

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much museums in Lancashire received in Government funding in each of the last five years. [126154]

Mr. Lammy: Museums are a discretionary local authority service and their core funding is a matter for Lancashire county council and the 12 district councils in Lancashire.

Excluding lottery funding, the Department through the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has provided the following sums to museums within the Lancashire county council geographical area that are responsible for collections of nationally significant cultural items (designated collections):

Grants to museums with designated collections in Lancashire

	£000
2005-06	36.1
2004-05	36.1
2003-04	35.0
2002-03	35.0
2001-02	95.0

The Department also sponsors the National Football Museum in Preston and has provided them with the following annual sums:

Grant to the national football museum

	£000
2005-06	100
2004-05	100
2003-04	100
2002-03	[1]n/a
2001-02	[1]n/a

[1] The museum was not sponsored by DCMS prior to 2003-04.

The Harris Museum and Art Gallery is also one of five partner institutions in the North-West Hub of the Renaissance Programme for regional museums. In total, this North-West Renaissance Hub has received the following funding:

Grant in aid to the north west renaissance hub through the MLA

	£000
2005-06	1,402
2004-05	820
2003-04	220
2002-03	10
2001-02	[1]n/a

[1] Prior to the renaissance programme.

Public Buildings: Lighting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance she has issued on the exterior lighting of public buildings of cultural significance. [127161]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has not issued guidance on the exterior lighting of public buildings of cultural significance. However, English Heritage is developing standards and guidelines on lighting historic buildings for its own properties and for general guidance, which is due to be published later this year.

Theatre: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Government funding theatres in Lancashire received in each of the last five years. [127116]

Mr. Lammy: Government funding for the arts is distributed, within broad guidelines, through Arts Council England. The following figures supplied by Arts Council England provide a breakdown of the information requested.

Arts Council England grant in aid funding to theatre, Lancashire

£

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Dukes Playhouse	261,330	340,000	470,000	481,752	493,796
Horse and Bamboo Theatre Company	67,486	77,609	93,131	106,331	115,960
Nuffield Theatre	—	10,000	60,000	61,500	63,040
Rose Theatre	—	8,000	8,000	8,200	8,408
Total	328,816	435,609	631,131	657,783	681,204

Arts Council England lottery funding to theatre and drama activities, Lancashire

£

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Arts Capital Programme	460,000	—	—	—	—
Regional Arts Lottery Programme	51,097	29,578	—	—	—
National Touring Programme	—	25,550	—	—	—
Grants to individuals	—	—	6,581	3,370	9,330
Grants to organisations	—	—	92,966	149,642	135,515
Touring grants	—	—	69,609	5,000	4,400
Total	511,097	55,128	169,156	158,012	149,245

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in making the range of drugs relevant to HIV/AIDS available to people in the poorest countries; and if he will make a statement. [126395]

Mr. Thomas: The international effort to achieve universal access has helped boost the numbers on anti-retroviral drugs (ARV) treatment. In sub-Saharan Africa, the numbers on treatment rose 10-fold from 2003 to 2006 from 100,000 to over 1 million. This is equivalent to 23 per cent. of those needing treatment. Similarly, the number of sites where people can receive treatment has increased significantly, including in Malawi and Zambia where there has been increases of 20 and 30-fold respectively. As of 1 December 2006, Global Fund-supported programmes have put 770,000 people on ARV treatment for HIV. This represents more than one-quarter of the 3 million people on ARV worldwide and is 28 per cent. greater than the Global Fund targets for 2006.

The UK has already pledged to spend £1.5 billion on AIDS programmes between 2005 and 2008: this reflects our commitment to Universal Access. Despite this progress, much still needs to be done. In addition to funding AIDS programmes, we are supporting UNITAID, the new international drug purchasing facility, to fund second-line ARV, paediatric ARVs and TB and malaria drugs predominantly to low income countries. It is hoped that this mechanism will contribute to the necessary reductions in the prices of second-line drugs such as lopinavir/ritonavir and tenofovir (Viread and Kaletra). The UK Government are also helping strengthen the World Health Organisation (WHO) medicines pre-qualification process through UNITAID, in order to speed up the availability of new second-line ARV products. WHO's pre-qualification process is a critical block for low income countries using new ARVs, with a long backlog of medicines seeking pre-approval. The additional funding will accelerate the process.

Disaster Relief: Education

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that education provision is included within the first phase in all humanitarian responses. [124895]

Hilary Benn: The first task of responding to a disaster should be meeting the priority needs of affected communities; i.e. emergency shelter, food, and water and sanitation facilities.

Following a disaster, the UN humanitarian co-ordinator oversees needs assessments carried out by the lead UN agency for each humanitarian sector. These are used to draw up global "flash appeals" to raise funding from donors.

Under the reform of the international humanitarian system, nine sectors which are deemed to be under-serviced in humanitarian response have become "clusters", co-ordinated by a UN cluster lead who is allocated funds from a global cluster appeal in order to fulfil their leadership role. While education is not currently formally a cluster, in December 2006, the Inter Agency Standing Committee (consisting of the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners) agreed that the cluster approach would be applied to the education sector, under UNICEF's lead. Education will also be included in the 2007 global cluster appeal.

In countries, this means that following a disaster, UNICEF will present a request for funding for the education sector, based on humanitarian need, to the humanitarian co-ordinator to include in the flash appeal. Where education is deemed to be a priority need, the humanitarian co-ordinator will highlight this and it will be up to donors to provide adequate funding.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK has contributed to the Global Fund to help poor countries fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. [126394]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has committed £359 million to the Global Fund over seven years (2002-08) including £100 million for 2006 and the same for 2007, subject to performance. The UK is now the fifth largest donor for the period 2006-07 (after the US, France, Japan and Italy) and the third largest in the EU. The UK's current share of Global Fund contributions is around 8 per cent.

Latin America: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve lives in Latin America. [126712]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's goal is to reduce poverty and inequality in Latin America in line with the international community's commitment to help achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs) by 2015. DFID's main financial contributions to Latin America are through direct contributions to the multilateral institutions: the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Commission and United Nations. DFID also has a bilateral programme for Latin America (£11 million in 2006-07). The purpose of this programme is to enhance the overall impact of the international system in the region. DFID's assistance to Latin America from 2004-07 is set out in the document entitled "Regional Assistance Plan", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

DFID is working with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank, helping them to tackle social exclusion and to provide access to markets and international trade. Efforts are being made to provide accountable and responsive public sector management and effective political systems. DFID also works to improve donor coordination in support of government-led poverty reduction strategies and also to improve regional, analysis and lesson sharing to achieve trade policies that better reflect the impact of trade on poverty and inequality. In the health sector it focuses on improved quality and effectiveness of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care drawing from regional organisations working with the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria.

DFID is also providing a further £7 million a year to British NGOs working in Latin America under Partnership Programme Agreements with DFID, and funding projects through the Civil Society Challenge Fund.

DFID's programme in Latin America provides flexible and responsive funding and seeks to pilot innovative new approaches. It works with others, for example the UN and international NGOs, to facilitate cooperation between civil society organisations and the World Bank and IDB. It collaborates closely with the complementary programmes of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and the British Council.

Through the UK Government's Global Conflict Prevention Pool, DFID, alongside the FCO and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), supports security sector reform and small arms and light weapons reduction. The overall aim is to reduce armed violence, establish effective and appropriate rule of law in the region, and provide the security needed to enable development.

Nepal

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* humanitarian, *(b)* economic and *(c)* military assistance the UK is providing to Nepal. [126271]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

Humanitarian assistance

DFID monitors the humanitarian situation in Nepal jointly with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and other international bodies. In 2006-07 DFID provided £400,000 to UNOCHA to facilitate its leadership in this monitoring role, plus to support its coordination of the international response to emerging and ongoing humanitarian crises.

In November 2006 DFID funded a detailed food security assessment by the Government of Nepal and

UN agencies. In response to this assessment, DFID has contributed £250,000 to WFP's current emergency operation in the Karnali region of western Nepal.

DFID's overall contribution to humanitarian coordination and assistance in Nepal during this financial year has been £700,000.

Economic assistance

DFID is spending £36 million on development aid to Nepal in 2006-07. This is funding several major programmes that support economic growth, either directly or indirectly. Local livelihoods and economic activity in rural areas are being supported through DFID's Community Support Programme, the Livelihood and Forestry Programme, the Rural Access Programme and Agriculture support programme. In addition, we contribute to the cost of national government programmes in health and education, which increases spending and human development, which in turn will increase economic growth and create a better environment for investment. Finally, DFID's support to Maoist cantonments, the re-establishment of law and order, upcoming national elections and political inclusion initiatives are helping to build the legitimacy of the state and stabilise the country, which is vital for investment and growth.

Military assistance

The UK supports the transition of the Nepal Army to a regular professional army under civilian control. We are working with the Government of Nepal to develop appropriate structures, including a strengthened Ministry of Defence, to help achieve this. We do not supply lethal equipment to the Nepal Army and have no plans to do so. We are assisting with training and equipment to strengthen the Nepal Army's ability to undertake mine clearance.

As part of the peace process, the UK is also supporting the establishment of temporary camps for Maoist combatants, and is funding the United Nations Mission in Nepal to conduct the registration and verification of Maoist arms and combatants.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to prevent the spread of AIDS in Nepal. [126686]

Mr. Thomas: DFID Nepal has been at the forefront of Nepal's response to HIV/AIDS. In October 2005, DFID commenced a five-year, £15-million programme in support of the national HIV/AIDS programme. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) manages DFID's support in conjunction with their management of grants from the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria. DFID is currently the second major donor to the national HIV/AIDS programme, contributing 24 per cent. of the programme's resources from mid-2006 to mid-2008. DFID support is aligned to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and its corresponding Plan.

DFID supports 73 projects through 59 NGOs or community-based organisations in 27 of Nepal's 75 districts. DFID is the lead donor in support of services to: mobile populations; injecting drug users; people living with HIV/AIDS; prison populations; men having sex with men and male sex workers. The activities implemented range from information and awareness; peer education; voluntary counselling and HIV testing; harm reduction (including rehabilitation); care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS and safe blood supply.

In addition to bilateral assistance, DFID also supports prevention and treatment to Nepali migrants in Nepal and India through the Asia Regional Poverty Fund, a three-year, £2 million project which commenced in February 2006.

Over the last three years, DFID has worked closely with the Government of Nepal (GON), the UN agencies and the World Bank to develop the Three Ones: one policy and programme, one national co-ordination body and one monitoring and evaluation framework.

DFID plans to increase its policy engagement in HIV/AIDS. This will be focused on supporting the establishment of a national multi-sectoral semi-independent unit which can manage the programme, improve fund-flow to communities and attract more resources.

Overseas Aid: AIDS

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on AIDS-related work in 2005-06; and how much has been spent in 2006-07. [126396]

Mr. Thomas: DFID spent £385 million in tackling HIV and AIDS in 2005-2006, an increase of almost 30 per cent. on the 2004-05 figure of £298 million. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available. These figures were released as part of a draft report on an interim evaluation of 'Taking Action - the UK Government's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing World' available on DFID's website at www.dfid.gov. As part of this strategy DFID remains committed to spending £1.5 billion on tackling HIV and AIDS over the three years to 2007-08.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the importance of long-term security in attracting investment to develop biofuel production capacity. [127182]

Dr. Ladyman: We fully recognise the importance of long-term security in attracting investment to develop biofuel production capacity in the UK. We believe that the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation will provide a high degree of investor confidence in biofuels, and there are already signs that it is leading to increased investment in new biofuel production capacity, with a number of new plants due to come on stream very shortly.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time was for calls to Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency local office helplines to be answered in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of callers discontinued calls before they were answered. [126870]

Dr. Ladyman: Fiscal year to date figures for DVLA's local office help line shows average speed of answer is 18 seconds. The number of calls discontinued while queuing to advisors is 0.87 per cent.

Driving Offences: Cellular Phones

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the risks of driving while using a hands-free mobile telephone; what research his Department has conducted on the effects on the chance of being in a crash of using a hands-free mobile telephone; and if he will make a statement; [124609]

(2) what research he has conducted on the level of mobile telephone usage by motorists while driving according to *(a)* gender, *(b)* age, *(c)* region and *(d)* type of car owned. [124610]

Dr. Ladyman: A report prepared for the Department and published in 1997 reviewed the use of mobile phones by drivers. TRL Report 318, "The use of mobile phones while driving: a review" is available from TRL Ltd (www.trl.co.uk).

The Department has not needed to undertake its own further research into the risks of using any mobile phone because research by others adequately covers the subject and confirms that there is little difference in the distraction whether a hand-held or hands-free mobile phone is used. The Department's consistent advice, for example in the Highway code and the THINK Road Safety campaign, has been that mobile phones of any type should not be used while driving.

The research is conveniently summarised in the report of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones "Mobile Phones and Health", published in 2000—see paragraphs 5.201 to 5.214, pages 86 to 90 for a summary of research worldwide—available online at: www.iegmp.org.uk/report/text.htm.

The Direct Line Insurance report published in 2002 (available at http://info.directline.com/xxx/news.nsf/6412573869047 4fe00256a6f003a151b/bec9c738833c7fb180256b84002dec5f/$FILE/Mobile%20Phone%20Report.pdf) compares the effect on reaction times from the use of mobile phones with the effect of alcohol. The research underlying the Direct Line report is published as TRL Report 547 available from www.trl.co.uk.

Research completed in 2003 for the Department of Health's Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research programme "Conversations in Cars: The Relative Hazards of Mobile Phones" is expected to be published shortly—available from www.trl.co.uk.

Surveys for the Department on the level of mobile phone use are undertaken twice yearly. The most recently published report "Mobile Phone use by drivers, 2004-06"—report Lf2100—can be downloaded from www.trl.co.uk/store/report_list.asp?pid=211. Surveys are not undertaken regionally but surveys sites are considered representative of the full range of conditions on British roads. They do not attempt to include gender, age and type of car because there is no need for such information.

Level Crossings: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the locations are of half barrier level crossings in Hampshire; and if he will make a statement. [126266]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail. The hon. Member should contact John Armitt, the Chief Executive, at 40 Melton Street, London, NW1 2EE.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps either to remove or to upgrade the half barrier level crossings in Hampshire; and if he will make a statement. [126750]

Mr. Tom Harris: Any changes would need to be proposed by Network Rail and agreed by the Office of Rail Regulation, the health and safety regulator for the railway. All level crossings of whatever type are adequately safe when used correctly.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* cost and *(b)* profit components are contained in the convenience charge of £2.50 that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency levies on online credit card payments of vehicle excise duty. [127153]

Dr. Ladyman: The £2.50 charge for using the credit card for online re-licensing transactions is calculated to cover the specific full costs of providing the credit card as a payment option and is subject to review on an annual basis. No profit element is built into the charge. The charge covers two distinct types of cost:

Credit Card company costs relating to the charges applied for processing credit card payments;

DVLA operating costs relating to the process of credit card payments, credit card enquiries and the investigation of disputed payments.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many registered cars there were in 1997; and how many there are in 2007. [125986]

Dr. Ladyman: The latest statistical series on the number of licensed cars and cars registered for the first time were published in Tables 1b and 12b of Vehicle Licensing Statistics 2005. A copy of this report, published on 18 May 2006, was placed in the House of Commons Library and it is also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.Uk/pqr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/licensing/coll_vehiclelicensingstatistics2/vehiclelicensingstatistics2005

Network Rail

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what work has been undertaken to upgrade the East Coast Mainline since 1997; [125980]

(2) what work has been undertaken to upgrade the Great Western Mainline since 1997. [125981]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive for a response to his question:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Ports: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the Olive Mount Chord project at the port of Liverpool to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [126532]

Mr. Tom Harris: The project to re-instate the Olive Mount Chord is being promoted by a variety of parties including the Northern Way and Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, working with Network Rail. The completion date for the scheme is a matter for Network Rail and the proposers.

Railways: Construction

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new railway line he plans to be constructed in each of the next five years. [126867]

Mr. Tom Harris: In July the Secretary of State for Transport will publish a High Level Output Specification for England and Wales. This will set out the railway improvements the Government wishes to buy in terms of capacity, safety and reliability, and the funding to support this for the five-year period from April 2009. It will be for the rail industry to determine what inputs are required to deliver this.

Railways: Freight

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail freight routes to major ports have been upgraded since 1997. [125979]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive for a response to his question:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Greater London

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new railway lines into and in London for which his Department has responsibility have been built since 1997. [125985]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive for a response to his question:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Overcrowding

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the rates of overcrowding on *(a)* South West trains and *(b)* national network trains were in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [127353]

Mr. Tom Harris: Data to which the Department has access is limited to Passengers in Excess of Capacity (PIXC), a measure which applies to weekday commuter trains arriving in London between 7 am and 9.59 am and departing London between 4 pm and 6.59 pm.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes PIXC figures in its National Rail Trends publication. The most recent edition, covering 2005, was published on 5 July 2006.

The document is on the internet at the following address: http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/294.pdf and has been made available in the Library of the House.

Road Traffic

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new bypasses on trunk roads and local roads have been built since 1997. [125989]

Dr. Ladyman: 66 Highways Agency trunk road (over £5 million) and local authority bypass schemes have been completed between 1997 and March 2007 as listed in the following table:

	Scheme
1997	Parkeston Bypass Stage 1, Phase 1A, Essex
	Averham Bypass, Nottinghamshire
	A256 Whitfield to Eastry/Whitfield Bypass
	A413 Wendover Bypass, Bucks
1998	Werrington/Glinton Bypass, Cambridgeshire
	Parkeston Bypass Stage 1, Phase 1B, Essex
	A15/A16 Market Deeping Bypass, Lincolnshire
	A16 Peakes Parkway (North East Lincolnshire)
	A1058 Cradlewell Bypass, Newcastle
	A228 Hale Street Bypass, Kent
	A289 Wainscott Bypass, Kent
	Tingewick Bypass, Bucks
1999	Dudley Southern Bypass
2000	A617 Rainworth Bypass, Nottinghamshire

	Scheme
2001	A174 Skelton and Brotton Bypass
	Burntwood Bypass Phase 1 and 2, Staffordshire
	A151 Weston Bypass
	A151 Weston Bypass, Lincolnshire (part ERDF funded)
	C541 Addlethorpe Bypass and Bend Improvement, Lincolnshire (part ERDF funded)
2002	A143 Broome-Ellingham Bypass
	A131 Great Leighs Bypass
	A6023 Denaby Main Diversion
	A511 Ashby Bypass
	A27 Polegate Bypass
	A43 Silverstone Bypass
	JA6 Clapham Bypass
	A66 Stainburn and Great Clifton Bypass
	Wyre Piddle Bypass, Worcestershire
	A428 Crick Bypass (developer funded)
	Parkeston Bypass Stage 2, Essex (developer funded)
2003	A350 Semington-Melksham Diversion
	Barnsley Coalfields Link Road (aka Shafton Bypass)
	A6 Great Glen Bypass
	A53 Hodnet Bypass
	A5 Nesscliffe Bypass
	A500 Basford, Hough and Shavington Bypass
	A6 Rothwell-Desborough Bypass
	A6 Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass
	A6 Alvaston Bypass
	A650 Bingley Relief Road (aka Bypass)
	A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Bypass (Northern Section)
	A41 Aston Clinton Bypass
	A527 Biddulph Inner Bypass
	Ashton-Under-Lyne Northern Bypass (Greater Manchester)
	A130 Southern Section (A132-A127), Essex (PFI)
2004	St. Clements Way, Thurrock (aka West Thurrock Marshes Relief Road)
	A607 Rearsby Bypass
	Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route
	A63 Selby Bypass
	A10 Wadesmill Colliers End
2005	A167 Chilton Bypass
	A21 Lamberhurst Bypass
	A47 Thorney Bypass
	A142 Fordham Bypass
	Gloucester South West Bypass (Castlemeads section)
	A158 Coastal Access Improvement Phase 1—Partney Bypass
	A428 West Haddon Bypass (developer funded)
	A57 Cadishead Way (Brinell Drive to City Boundary) (Greater Manchester)
	Burntwood Bypass Phase 3, Staffordshire
	A16/A158 Partney Bypass, Lincolnshire
2006	A505 Baldock Bypass, Hertfordshire
2007	Barford Bypass, Warwickshire
	A606 Oakham Bypass, Rutland
	A197 Pegswood Bypass
	A58 Blackbrook Diversion
	A421 Great Barford Bypass

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road fatalities were caused by defective vehicles in each year from 1997 to 2006. [126397]

Dr. Ladyman: In 2005 there were 91 fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents which involved vehicle defects as a contributory factor.

Contributory factor data were not collected prior to 2005, and 2006 data will be published in summer 2007.

Roads: Construction

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many kilometres of new road lanes, including widening projects, have been built since 1997. [125977]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table shows the number of kilometres of new road lanes that have been built since 1997.

	Lane km added to HA network
1997-98	433
1998-99	107
1999-2000	38
2000-01	117
2001-02	0
2002-03	224
2003-04	450
2004-05	191
2005-06	89
2006-07	77
Total	1,726

Roads: Noise

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many lane kilometres of the motorway and trunk road network have been resurfaced with a lower noise surface since 1997. [125990]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency's policy to use quieter surfacing materials as a matter of course whenever a road is resurfaced has been in place since 2001. Given this, we have no separately recorded information on quieter surfacing delivered prior to this date.

A total of 8,240 lane kilometres (lkms) of quieter surfacing were delivered between 2000-01 and 2005-06. The agency is forecasting to deliver a further 1,100 lkms during 2006-07.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road safety cameras there are in each London borough. [126864]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table lists the number of safety camera sites in each highway authority in London.

Highway authority	*Number*
Barking and Dagenham	7
Bexley	14
Brent	18
Bromley	9
Camden	3
City of London	3
Croydon	23
Ealing	6
Enfield	11
Greenwich	6
HA	6
Hackney	11
Hammersmith and Fulham	7
Haringey	7
Harrow	12
Havering	10
Hillingdon	17
Hounslow	3
Islington	15
Kingston	9
Lambeth	2
Lewisham	2
Merton	6
Newham	10
Redbridge	7
Richmond	3
Southwark	14
Sutton	3
TLRN	415
Tower Hamlets	3
Waltham Forest	6
Wandsworth	1
Westminster	12

Notes:
1. The numbers shown are for sites operated within the National Safety Camera Programme.
2. The numbers include both fixed and mobile speed camera sites and red-light cameras.

The London Safety Camera Partnership holds more detailed information on these sites, including maps, accessible via their website at www.lscp.org.uk

Tolls

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate is of the timetable for the introduction of a national road user pricing scheme. [122803]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1760W.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on progress made towards a national system of road pricing. [126466]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The Government called for a national debate on road pricing in 2005 and this is now happening.

While no decision has been taken on whether in the future to establish a national scheme of road pricing, the Government are working with interested local authorities who are exploring the scope for developing local schemes as part of a wider package of transport measures, to tackle local congestion.

It is only in the light of the development of such schemes that any decision about national road pricing could be considered.

Tolls: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to introduce a pilot scheme for road charging in Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [125240]

Dr. Ladyman: It would be for Lancashire to decide whether to put forward proposals for a local road pricing pilot scheme. 10 areas have been awarded pump-priming funding to support the development of Transport Innovation Fund packages that address local congestion problems by combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport. Lancashire is not one of these areas.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Calendars

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of creating the 2007 Royal Air Force desktop calendar. [124457]

Derek Twigg: A total of 1,700 calendars were produced at a VAT inclusive cost of £2,687.22. This equates to a single unit cost of £1.58.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court has received in each year since 2001; and from which top level budget holder the funding came. [119079]

Derek Twigg: Information on funding in the financial year 2001-02 is not readily available. For subsequent years, annual expenditure on the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre has been identified as follows:

Financial year	*£ million (actual costs)*
2002-03	10.29
2003-04	10.43
2004-05	9.44
2005-06	10.75
2006-07	[1]12.84

[1] Current estimate of expenditure for full financial year.

The sums listed represent the bulk of the operating costs and capital expenditure for the year in question. Until the current financial year, all such funding was provided from the centre top level budget. For this financial year, funding for property management, capital works, rent and rates has been provided from the Defence Estates top level budget.

Data for some costs (medical stores and the costs of service personnel temporarily attached to the establishment) are not readily available and have not been included in the aforementioned figures.

Additional funding for a range of projects, not included in the above figures, has been generously provided by the Headley Court Trust.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from each country of the Commonwealth are employed in the Forces, broken down by *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force. [125565]

Derek Twigg: The most recent data available for the nationality of Commonwealth personnel serving in the UK regular forces are shown in the following table.

Country	*Naval Service at 6 October 2006*	*Army at 1 January 2007*	*Royal Air Force[1] at 6 March 2006*
Total Commonwealth	37,990	106,130	48,650
United Kingdom	37,535	99,495	48,445
Antigua	—	[2]—	—
Australia	10	70	10
Bangladesh	[2]—	5	—
Barbados	[2]—	10	[2]—
Belize	—	5	—
Botswana	—	10	—
Cameroon	—	30	—
Canada	20	60	20
Cyprus	[2]—	[2]—	—
Dominican Republic	[2]—	15	—
Fiji	75	1,955	5
Gambia	5	100	[2]—
Ghana	[2]—	750	[2]—
Grenada	[2]—	50	—
Guyana	—	15	—
India	5	50	[2]—
Jamaica	30	940	25
Kenya	5	120	5
Malawi	[2]—	115	[2]—
Malaysia	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Malta	[2]—	5	[2]—
Mauritius	[2]—	25	[2]—
Namibia	—	[2]—	—
New Zealand	5	65	5
Nigeria	[2]—	80	—
Pakistan	[2]—	5	[2]—
Papua New Guinea	—	[2]—	—
Seychelles	—	10	—
Sierra Leone	[2]—	45	—
Singapore	—	[2]—	—
South Africa	60	795	10
Sri Lanka	—	15	[2]—
St. Kitts and Nevis	—	[2]—	[2]—
St. Lucia	5	230	[2]—
St. Vincent	165	275	[2]—
Swaziland	—	10	—
Tanzania	—	[2]—	—
Tonga	—	10	—
Trinidad	25	70	10
Uganda	—	55	—
Zambia	[2]—	20	—
Zimbabwe[3]	15	570	5
Other West Indies	—	[2]—	—
Other Non-British[4]	—	15	85

'—' denotes zero or rounded to zero

[1] Royal Air Force data for service personnel who are non-UK nationals have been provided on an ad-hoc basis as nationality data are not centrally held. The figure for service personnel who are UK nationals has been inferred from the total strength of the RAF at 1 April 2006.

[2] Fewer than five. All other figures are rounded to the nearest five.

[3] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as Rhodesian.

[4] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as British Commonwealth/Foreign, Other African Country and Other Asiatic Country, and 75 RAF personnel recorded as Commonwealth by birth, but with no nationality recorded.

Note:
Data are for UK regular forces (trained and untrained), including nursing services and excluding full time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent changes have been made to the procedure by which members of the armed forces stationed overseas receive parcels free of charge; and if he will make a statement. [127357]

Derek Twigg: A free packet scheme was first introduced on 17 April 2003, as a temporary measure unique to Iraq, at a time when service personnel did not have access to the welfare facilities that are now available in theatre. When the provision of goods and services in Iraq reached the required standard, the decision was taken to end the scheme on 8 April 2004. It was later re-introduced for a period of one month before Christmas 2004, and subsequently confirmed by the then Secretary of State for Defence, prior to Christmas 2005, that the pre-Christmas free packet scheme was to become a standard element of the operational welfare package. The free posting dates for Christmas 2006 were 10 November to 8 December inclusive, for which Royal Mail Group charged the Ministry of Defence £577,000; this sum does not include the costs for additional air transport and onward distribution that were also paid for by the Department.

The Ministry of Defence makes no charge to carry postal packets through the British Forces Post Office system to personnel on operations. The cost that is payable is that charged by Royal Mail Group to carry the items from local post offices to the British Forces Post Office Depot at Mill Hill, London.

Armed Forces: Surveys

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the latest Continuous Attitudes Survey from each of the services. [121502]

Derek Twigg: The latest Royal Navy, Royal Marine, Army and RAF Continuous Attitude Surveys are in the final stages of completion and will be available at the beginning of May. I will make arrangements to place copies in the Library of the House and on the MOD Freedom of Information Website.

Army: Recruitment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many different application forms a potential officer recruit to the Army must complete before entering Sandhurst; and what estimate he has made of the effect of that number on the number of recruits choosing to join the armed forces. [125852]

Derek Twigg: A candidate for a commission in the British Army has to complete a Potential Army Officer Information form, an Army Officer Selection Board Curriculum Vitae, an Application for a Commission in the British Army, an Army Medical Questionnaire and a MOD Security Questionnaire. If an individual is successful and takes up the offer of a Commission and place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, they will be required to complete the following prior to arrival: Personal Details form, Medical Declaration and Pre Course Briefing form.

The Army has no evidence that the number of forms is any deterrent to applicants.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the defence budget was spent on the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each of the last 10 years; and what the planned figures are for the next five years. [124588]

Des Browne: The percentage of the planned defence budget spent on the Atomic Weapons Establishment in each of the last 10 years is as follows:

	Outturn spend as a percentage of the planned budget
1996-97	1.3
1997-98	1.4
1998-99	1.3
1999-2000	1.3
2000-01	1.2
2001-02	1.1
2002-03	1.1
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	1.3
2005-06[1]	1.8

[1] Provisional.

The forecast percentage of the planned defence budget to be spent at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is 2.4 per cent. in 2006-07 and 2.7 per cent. in 2007-08. This is due primarily to the programme of additional investment in sustaining key skills and facilities announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdie and Shorts (John Reid) on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 59WS.

We will continue the programme of investment in sustaining capabilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, both to ensure we can maintain the existing warhead for as long as necessary and to enable us to develop a replacement warhead if required. This, and our plans for the maintenance of the independent nuclear deterrent were set out in the White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), published in December 2006.

BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many current security passes to enter his Department's premises have been issued to employees of BAE Systems; and if he will list the BAE Systems' employees who hold such passes. [126502]

Derek Twigg: Employees of BAE Systems that require access to MOD establishments are issued with a variety of security passes, depending on the nature of their business, the authorised access required and the duration of their requirement for access. Information is not held centrally on how many security passes have been issued and it would incur disproportionate cost to collate this data.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 601W, what the well-established technical co-operation programmes are through which the UK makes a contribution to the US missile defence system; and if he will make a statement. [126953]

Des Browne: The UK/US technical co-operation programmes cover a wide range of missile defence activities. These include current and future missile threat assessment, threat launch detection, threat tracking, command and control aspects, sensors, weapon systems and the consequences of interception. The joint co-operation programmes have allowed both the UK and US to improve our joint understanding of missile defence issues, and have allowed UK-developed technology with potential missile defence applications to be demonstrated to the US.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the work of the UK Missile Defence Centre. [126955]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 402W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock).

Departmental Records

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he expects *(a)* the project to safeguard a number of files which had been stored in the Old War

Office Building and were affected by asbestos to be completed and *(b)* (i) documents relating to the visit to London in 1974 of the then Turkish Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit, and (ii) all other affected documents to be released. [123455]

Derek Twigg: It is anticipated that the project to scan the files affected by asbestos contamination of the Old War Office basement will be completed by early 2008. The project was originally expected to finish in July 2007, but the number of pages needing to be scanned has proved to be higher than estimated, requiring a six month extension.

Freedom of Information requests frustrated by the contamination of files are being addressed in the order in which they were received as the files reconstituted by the project become available, although it will take at least nine months to process the backlog. All files scanned as part of this project will, in due course, be reviewed in accordance with established procedures. Those that The National Archives require for permanent preservation will be transferred there in accordance with the Public Records Acts.

There is no file in the asbestos contaminated archive specifically related to Bulent Ecevit's visit to London in 1974. Although the archive contains a large number of files which have Turkey in their title, given the date in question only one of these could conceivably have covered the Ecevit visit. This file has been reconstituted and examined, but unfortunately holds no relevant information.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned programme budget was for his Department in each of the last 10 years *(a)* in real terms and *(b)* as a percentage of gross domestic product. [121876]

Des Browne: Since 1998, Defence spending plans have been set as part of the Government's Spending Review process. Prior to this, spending plans were set on an annual basis. The Government accounting process has changed progressively over this period due to the introduction of Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB). The terms in which these budgets were set are therefore not directly comparable.

It is however possible to make a broad comparison between the near cash element of budgets under RAB and the cash element of the budget before the introduction of RAB[1].

On this basis, the near cash/cash elements of the planned budget in real terms (2006-07 base year) and as a percentage of GDP are set out as follows:

	Cash/Near cash budget in real terms (2006-07 base year) (£ billion)	*Cash/Near Cash budget as a percentage of GDP*
1997-98	27.0	2.6
1998-99	26.8	2.5
1999-2000	26.4	2.4
2000-01	26.9	2.4
2001-02	26.9	2.3
2002-03	26.8	2.3
2003-04	27.5	2.3
2004-05	27.7	2.2
2005-06	28.3	2.2
2006-07	28.7	2.2

For the first two of these years, the Government made it clear that it would work within the existing spending plans while it tackled the structural deficit it inherited and set new policy objectives and spending priorities. Since the first two years, the average annual real increase in the cash/near cash element of the Defence budget, has been over £300 million.

The figures in the table do not include the cost of operations as these are claimed against the Reserve in-year and are reported in Departmental Expenditure figures. The most recent edition of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, available online at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk, records that total government expenditure on defence, including operations, was 2.5 per cent. in 2004-05 and estimated at 2.5 per cent. in 2005-06.

[1] See www.hm-treasury.gov.uk for explanation of terms

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in (i) his Department and (ii) each agency of the Department in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [123922]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We do hold information on a Department-wide voluntary early release scheme which was launched in March 2005, in connection with the civil service-wide reductions required under the 2004 Spending Review. Under this scheme 643 staff left in 2005-06, at a cost of £41 million; 660 staff left in 2006-07 at a cost of £43 million; a further 706 are planned to be released at an estimated cost of £80 million in 2007-08.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the effect on *(a)* serviceability and *(b)* availability of C130s has been of the introduction of the Hercules Integrated Operational Support contract provided by Marshall Aerospace. [123000]

Mr. Ingram: The Hercules Integrated Operational Support (HIOS) contract's primary output is to provide Fit For Purpose (FFP) aircraft available to the Front Line Command. To qualify as FFP an aircraft must be reliable, safe and capable of performing the task on a given day.

HIOS is still in its transitional phase, and is due to complete on 30 November 2007. Nevertheless, between 1 September 2006 and 31 January 2007 (the most recent period for which data is available), there was a modest increase in FFP aircraft of 3 per cent. (whilst

also reducing costs) when compared with a similar time frame under the previous aircraft support arrangements. This performance is expected to improve progressively as the full benefits of HIOS take effect.

Mental Health

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 625-26W, on mental health, what the assessed establishment requirement is for each category of mental health worker; and where each is based. [124740]

Derek Twigg: As stated on the 29 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 25W, the DMS uniformed regular requirement figures have been reviewed and the new manning requirements for 2007 for all cadres will be formally announced in the near future. The new requirement figures may cause the current number and configuration of established posts or "establishment" to change.

The following table shows the current number and location of establishment for uniformed psychiatrists and registered mental health nurses (RMHN) for each Service:

Unit	*Location*	*Psychiatrist*	*RMHN*
RN			
HMNB Clyde	Faslane	—	1
DCMH Haslar	Gosport	2	15
DCMH Plymouth	Plymouth	—	6
Total RN Establishment		2	22
Army			
Paderborn Community Mental Health Team	Paderborn	—	1
BFG HS Community Mental Health Team	Hohne	—	1
Mental Health Services Out Patients, Wegberg	Wegberg	1	4
Mental Health Services In Patients, Wegberg	Wegberg	—	10
Gutersloh Community Mental Health Team	Gutersloh	—	1
BFG HS—MRS Rhine Mil. Complex	Rhinedahlen	—	2
DCMH Haslar	Gosport	2	—
16 Close Support Colchester	Colchester	1	1
APHCS Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	1	4
APHCS HQ	Camberley	1	—
Wales and West Midlands (PHC Region)	Donnington	1	3
Wessex (PHC Region)	Tidworth	1	5
Scotland and North East (PHC Region)	Scotland and Gib	1	2
Home Counties (PHC Region)	DCMH Aldershot	2	5
London and South East (PHC Region)	DCMH Woolwich	1	3
TPMH Akrotiri	Cyprus	—	1
Eastern (PHC Region)	DCMH Cranwell	—	1
Eastern (PHC Region)	DCMH Colchester	—	1
Health Care and Projects	King's College, London	—	1
Scotland and North East (PHC Region)	DCMH Catterick	1	4
Total Army Establishment		13	50
RAF			
DCMH Catterick[1]	Catterick	1	2
TPMH Akrotiri Community Mental Health Team	Cyprus	—	3
DCMH Brize Norton	Brize Norton	1	9
DCMH Cranwell	Cranwell	1	6
DCMH Marham	Marham	1	8
DCMH Donnington	Donnington	—	2
Community Mental Health Clinic, Halton	Halton	—	1
DCMH Kinloss	Kinloss	—	1
RAF High Wycombe CHQ	High Wycombe	—	1
RAF Lyneham (TMW)	Lyneham	—	3
DCMH Woolwich	Woolwich	—	1
Scotland (PHC Region)	Leuchars	—	1
Total RAF Establishment		5	39

[1] Psychiatrist establishment includes one rotation (tri-Service) post.

Notes: APHCS—Army Primary Health Care Service BFG HS—British Forces Germany Health Service CHQ—Collocated Headquarters DCMH—Department of Community Mental Health HMNB—Her Majesty's Naval Base MRS—Medical Reception Service PHC—Primary Health Care TMPH—The Princess Mary's Hospital TMW—Tactical Medical Wing

As stated in the answer given on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, 1986W, the MOD no longer employs mental health occupational therapists, but does employ civilian clinical psychologists, psychiatrists and mental health nurses. However, the figures for their establishment are not held centrally. I will write to the hon. Member with these figures once they have been collated and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Military Police

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Defence Police College opened at Southwick Park; and what the cost was of establishing this facility. [122111]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 22 February 2007]:* The Defence Police College opened at Southwick Park on 15 September 2005.

The post-project evaluation records the cost of establishing the facility as £7.139 million after the first year, including financial provisions to conclude building works.

Navy: Officers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Commanders, *(b)* Captains, *(c)* Commodores and *(d)* Rear Admirals are on the (i) active and (ii) reserve lists; and how many were on the lists in 1997. [126292]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is detailed as follows:

	2007	1997
Rear Admiral	[1]25	[2]27
Commodore	58	[3]—
Captain	221	307
Commander	831	910

[1] 15 are in RN/NATO posts. Others are Tri Service appointments in MOD
[2] 21 were in RN/NATO posts
[3] Not a substantive rank. Officers in Commodore appointments are included in the figure for Captains

All senior officers have reserve liability on leaving the Service until the age of 60. This was applicable in 1997 and is the same in 2007.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of decommissioning *(a)* nuclear submarine hulls, reactor compartments and propulsion reactors, *(b)* warhead design and production facilities at Aldermaston and *(c)* fissile material stores at Sellafield should it be decided to go ahead with a replacement for Trident; and whether any independent audit of such decommissioning expenditure has been made. [126307]

Des Browne: Paragraph 7-5 of the White Paper: "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) indicated that decisions on whether to acquire a replacement for the Trident missile are unlikely to be needed until the 2020s. The White Paper set out the decisions needed now to join the programme to extend the life of the Trident D5 missile and to start detailed concept work on new submarines to replace the Vanguard class.

The Ministry of Defence has made provision in its accounts for a wide range of nuclear decommissioning liabilities. The latest estimate of these liabilities is shown in the Ministry of Defence annual report and accounts for 2005-06, HC1394, which were certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General. More detail is set out in the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Newport, West (Paul Flynn) on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 778-79W.

The estimate for the in-service costs of the UK's nuclear deterrent, once new submarines come into operation, set out at paragraph 5-14 of the White Paper include an allowance for the decommissioning costs of a successor system. This estimate has not been subject to external scrutiny. At this very early stage, we are not in a position to provide a breakdown of decommissioning costs in the way requested.

Investment at the Atomic Weapons Establishment has been increased in recent years primarily in order to ensure we can sustain the existing Trident warhead in-service for as long as necessary. This investment involves the replacement or refurbishment of a number of facilities related to the design and production of nuclear warheads. Proceeding with the plan to replace our Vanguard-class submarines and participate in the life extension programme for the Trident D5 missile would not have a material effect on these plans. As the White Paper makes clear, decisions on whether and how to replace or refurbish our warhead stockpile are likely to be necessary in the next Parliament.

Facilities at Sellafield are the responsibility of the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency and British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd.

Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Devon of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1877W, on nuclear weapons, what estimate he has made of the cost of decommissioning future *(a)* submarine reactor hulls and cores and *(b)* facilities used to create future fissile nuclear materials and nuclear warheads for any replacement Trident nuclear programme after 2055. [126918]

Des Browne: As I explained to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1877W, the estimate of in-service support costs of the UK's nuclear deterrent set out at paragraph 5-14 of the White Paper, "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), includes an allowance for the decommissioning of a successor to the current system. At this very early stage, we are not in a position to provide figures in the way requested.

In 1995, the UK announced that it had ceased production of fissile material for weapons purposes. This moratorium remains in place, and we do not envisage any requirement to change this position.

The UK's current warhead design is likely to last into the 2020s, and decisions on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace it are likely to be necessary in the next Parliament.

Proof of Identity: Ministry of Defence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many current security passes there are for the Ministry of Defence main building. [124495]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* Across the MOD central London office buildings (Main Building, Old War Office Building and St. George's Court) there are currently 18,026 active security passes. Separate figures are not available for Main Building alone.

Smith Institute

Mr. Heaton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much money from the public purse *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies gave to (i) the Smith Institute and (ii) its subsidiary SI Events Limited in each year since 1997; and for what purpose each payment was made. [123105]

Derek Twigg: No payments have been made by the Defence Bills Agency (DBA) or the Ministry of Defence's Trading Funds to the Smith Institute or SI Events.

A small percentage of MOD's contract payments are not made by the DBA or Trading Funds, but are made locally against contracts placed on behalf of other

Government Departments, joint venture and NATO contracts and contracts placed through collaborative projects. However, this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Television and Play Stations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* television sets and *(b)* Sony Playstations for the use of service personnel in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available. [116678]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 January 2007]*: Information on the total number of televisions and Playstations purchased across Defence over the last three financial years is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

However, figures for expenditure on televisions and Playstations for personnel deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for the calendar years 2005, 2006 and 2007 to date are available. These are as follows:

£

	Televisions	*Playstations*
2005	56,039	8,357
2006	135,937	25,571
2007 to date	67,700	4,199

Trident

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the change in the cost of nuclear decommissioning liabilities which would arise from the replacement of the Vanguard class Trident nuclear submarines; what factors are included in the estimate; and if he will make a statement. [116644]

Des Browne: It is too early to make a reasonable estimate of the nuclear decommissioning liabilities associated with a new class of submarines built to maintain our nuclear deterrent. However, the nuclear liabilities in the Department's annual report and accounts for 2005-06, HC1394, include a figure of £333 million for all current in-service submarines, including the Vanguard class. More detail on the MOD's current nuclear decommissioning liabilities is set out in the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Newport, West (Paul Flynn) on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 778-79W.

Warships

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definitions his Department uses of the terms *(a)* reduced readiness, *(b)* extended readiness and *(c)* low readiness; how many ships are in each category; and if he will make a statement. [124593]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 6 March 2007, to the hon. Member for New Forest East (Dr. Lewis), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Alternative Medicine

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how the pilot project to provide complementary and alternative medicine-CAM-within the NHS in Northern Ireland will be administered. [119305]

Paul Goggins: GPs attached to the selected practices within the pilot will refer their patients for treatment to one of the therapy groups included on the scheme. These are at present osteopathy, chiropractic, homeopathy, acupuncture, massage and aromatherapy. Get Well UK will receive the referral and contact the patient to make an initial appointment for them. The use of Get Well UK will remove the administration burden from the CAM therapist, and allow them to focus totally on patient care. All stakeholders (patients, practitioners, GPs) will be asked for their feedback. This information will be collated by Get Well UK and will be independently evaluated.

A steering group will be established, chaired by the Department and containing key stakeholders from the health and social services boards, the various CAM therapy governing organisations, GPs and the health and social services councils. This group will monitor the service, including that provided by Get Well UK, and evaluate the feedback from GPs, patients and practitioners. The group will consider where necessary during the pilot any changes that need to be implemented to ensure that the scheme meets its aims and objectives.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether members of the NHS Directory of Complementary and Alternative Practitioners will have to apply to be recognised as a Get Well UK therapist operating in Northern Ireland. [119306]

Paul Goggins: Practitioners wishing to participate in the pilot scheme were required to register with Get Well UK. Practitioners are able to join the NHS register of complementary and alternative medicine practitioners for a fee, but being on the register does not provide proof that the person or organisation registered is qualified or competent. It remains the responsibility of the person or body who engages the services of any practitioner to ensure that they are properly qualified.

The recruitment and quality assurance system provided by Get Well UK on behalf of the Department is robust. As well as asking about practitioners' qualifications and training, copies of all certificates and insurance details are kept on file, references are taken and police checks conducted to comply with The Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003. Get Well UK also conducts face-to-face interviews to ensure the suitability of practitioners to work in the health service as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what experience of *(a)* delivering complementary and alternative medicine and *(b)* operating in Northern Ireland, Get Well UK has. [119307]

Paul Goggins: Get Well UK was formed in May 2004 and has delivered five complementary medicine contracts in NHS primary care settings since that time. It was established as a not-for-profit organisation specifically to deliver complementary and alternative medicine services. Its managing director has 10 years' experience of managing and delivering complementary medicine services. The Board includes people at both chair and chief executive level within the NHS and an osteopath of 30 years' standing who was the medical director of an osteopathic school and a council member of the General Osteopathic Council.

Get Well UK was given a special award in the 2005 Awards for Good Practice in Integrated Healthcare, "Integrated Health Futures Award: recognising innovation to improve health". This was in recognition of the specific skills, infrastructure and exacting quality standards built into Get Well UK's service delivery.

Get Well UK has not operated in Northern Ireland previously.

Ambulances

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many ambulance service vehicles were in operation in each ambulance district in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, broken down by type. [126942]

Paul Goggins: The number of ambulance service vehicles in operation in each Ambulance Division in each of the last five years are set out in the following table:

NIAS division	*A and E vehicles*	*PCS vehicles*	*Rapid Response*
1 January 2007			
Northern	38	27	2
Southern	30	21	1
East City	22	East total 33[1]	1
East Country	22	[1]—	2
Western	28	22	3
Total	140	103	9
1 January 2006			
Northern	38	27	2
Southern	30	21	1
East City	22	East total 33[2]	1
East Country	22	[2]—	1
Western	28	22	2
Total	140	103	7
1 January 2005			
Northern	37	27	2
Southern	30	21	1
East City	21	East total 33[3]	1
East Country	22	[3]—	1
Western	27	22	2
Total	137	103	7
1 January 2004			
Northern	37	21	1
Southern	30	16	1
East City	21	East total 32[4]	1
East Country	22	[4]—	1
Western	27	19	1
Total	137	88	5
1 January 2003			
Northern	37	21	1
Southern	30	16	1
East City	21	East total 32[5]	1
East Country	22	[5]—	
Western	27	19	1
Total	137	88	4

Vehicle types:
Accident and Emergency (A and E)
Rapid Response Vehicles (RRV)
Patient Care Service (PCS)

Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net revenue from domestic rates in Northern Ireland was in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; and what the estimated level is for 2006-07. [120835]

Mr. Hanson: The gross collectable rate for domestic properties in NI for 2004-05 was £343,759,491.47. The net revenue collected for domestic properties in 2004-05 amounted to £328,376,655.77.

The gross collectable rate for domestic properties in NI for 2005-06 was £379,372,507.06. The net revenue collected for domestic properties in 2005-06 amounted to £367,620,688.16.

The estimated gross collectable rate for domestic properties in NI for 2006-07 is £425 million. The estimated net revenue collected for domestic properties in 2006-07 will be in the region of £383 million.

Firearms

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many firearms certificate applications were made in each Police Service of Northern Ireland district command unit area in each of the past three years; and how many of those applications were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful. [123488]

Paul Goggins: The chief constable has provided, in the following table, details of firearms applications from 1 February 2005 (when a new computer system was introduced) to December 2006. The figures cannot be disaggregated by district command unit.

	Granted	*Refused*
2005	11,984	270
2006	27,690	147

The figures include certificates granted to both first time applicants and to persons whose previous certificate had expired. The figures for 2006 were inflated by a backlog of applications carried forward from 2005.

Housing: Waiting Lists

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to reduce housing waiting lists in Northern Ireland; and what targets have been put in place relating to the reduction of such lists. [126963]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are committed to reducing housing waiting lists and are investing in a range of measures to achieve this objective.

The main method of meeting housing need is through reallocation of existing stock supplemented by additional new build. There are also strategies in place to purchase suitable homes and to bring vacant properties back into social housing use. The private rented sector has also grown significantly and is increasingly an important source of housing supply.

The current five-year social housing development programme makes provision for 1,500 social housing units annually, subject to the availability of funding. The need for additional social housing is addressed in the current comprehensive spending review. The Semple review into affordability, which is due to be published shortly, is expected to contain recommendations to help reduce waiting lists.

Maternity Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was allocated to maternity services in each health board area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [127114]

Paul Goggins: The planned funding allocated to maternity services (both acute expenditure and community midwifery spend) in each health board area in each of the last three years as shown in the following table.

Board	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*£000 2006-07*
EHSSB	22,174	23,794	25,621
NHSSB	15,710	17,200	18,362
SHSSB	12,529	13,421	14,589
WHSSB	10,503	11,374	11,678

Note:
The planned hospital spend relates to Obstetrics and does not include specialist neo-natal care, for example in a Special Care Baby Unit, that would be recorded under Acute services.

Further information would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Nurses: Pay

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the rates of pay are for each grade of nurse Northern Ireland; and what the percentage change was to the rate at each grade in each of the last six years. [127130]

Paul Goggins: Nurses in the Health and Personal Social Services are paid on the Agenda for Change pay bands 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b or 8c depending on the job undertaken. The pay band ranges at April 2006 are band 5 (£19,166 to £24,803), band 6 (£22,886 to £31,004), band 7 (£27,622 to £36,416) band 8a (£35,232 to £42,278), band 8b (£41,038 to £50,733), and band 8c (£49,381 to £60,880). All nurses have received similar percentage pay increases in the last six years; the percentage pay increases that have applied are shown in the following table:

	Percentage increase
2001	3.7
2002	[1]3.6
2003	3.225
2004	3.225
2005	3.225
2006	2.5

[1] Or £400 whichever is the greater

Physiotherapy

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who the members of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety physiotherapy taskforce are; and for what reason they were appointed in each case. [127123]

Paul Goggins: I established the physiotherapy taskforce to address and provide workable, realistic solutions to the current situation of reported high levels of graduate unemployment among newly trained physiotherapists. It was considered important to involve representatives of the profession, the commissioners, employers and work force planners. Membership of the taskforce therefore comprises representatives of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the trade union, HSS Trust physiotherapy management and Human Resources; a member of the physiotherapy work force and a physiotherapy student. A full list of members will be placed in the Library.

Physiotherapy taskforce membership:

Joyce Cairns, Workforce Planning Unit, Human Resources Directorate, DHSSPS

Diane Taylor, Education and Training Unit, Human Resources Directorate, DHSSPS

Catherine Elliman, Clinical Tutor (staff-side rep), Royal Hospital Group HSS Trust

Karen McMaster, Physiotherapy Manager, Causeway HSS Trust

Tom Sullivan, Policy Officer, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

Linda Austin, Senior Negotiating Officer, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

Nuala Doherty, Physiotherapy Undergraduate

Wendy Harpur, Lecturer in Health Sciences, University of Ulster

Fiona Crossey, Senior Consultant, Beeches Management Centre

Gloria Mills, Physiotherapy Manager, Mater Hospital HSS Trust

Deirdre Corrigan, Information and Analysis Directorate, DHSSPS

Nuala McArdle, Officer for the Allied Health Professionals, DHSSPS

Brian Beattie, Physiotherapy Manager, Craigavon Area Hospital

Michelle Tennyson, Allied Health Professional Commissioning Advisor, EHSSB

Jean Johns, Physiotherapy Manager, Belfast City Hospital

John Martin, Physiotherapy Manager, Association of Physios in Private Practice

Liz Cavan, PAMS Director, Newry and Mourne Trust

Pauline McAleese, Physiotherapy Manager, UCHT

Sue Prenter, PAMS Manager, Sperrin Lakeland Trust

Fiona Wilson, Physiotherapist, North and West Belfast HSS Trust

Dr. Jackie Gracey, Lecturer in Health Sciences, University of Ulster

Mervyn Barkley, Director of Human Resources, Belfast City Hospital

Muriel McRobbie, Secretariat, Workforce Planning Unit, DHSSPS

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many physiotherapists were employed by each health trust area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years, broken down by grade; and if he will make a statement. [127124]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is presented in the following tables.

Physiotherapists employed within the NI HPSS by grade and by trust as at 30 September 2001

Headcount

	Area physiotherapist/supt physiotherapist	*Senior physiotherapist 1*	*Senior physiotherapist 2*	*Basic grade physiotherapist*
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust/Foyle Community HSS Trust	7	17	4	12
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	4	18	6	3
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	5	19	7	15
Causeway HSS Trust	3	13	8	4
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	7	28	13	8
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	5	26	14	5
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	11	24	17	9
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	1	5	3	4
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	4	13	4	4
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	4	25	4	—
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	9	33	10	22
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	1	28	7	—
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	3	13	3	3
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	10	25	20	20
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	6	40	22	11
Total	82	327	142	122

Physiotherapists employed within the NI HPSS by grade and by trust as at 30 September 2002

Headcount

	Area physiotherapist/supt physiotherapist	*Senior physiotherapist 1*	*Senior physiotherapist 2*	*Basic grade physiotherapist*
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust/Foyle Community HSS Trust	8	16	5	11
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	4	20	7	—
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	6	21	8	19
Causeway HSS Trust	6	13	9	5
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	9	27	15	9
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	6	30	15	7
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	12	28	15	11
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	1	5	5	8
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	4	12	4	8
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	4	25	5	—
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	9	38	10	22
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	2	28	7	—
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	3	13	5	4
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	7	28	19	20
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	5	45	22	12
Total	86	349	151	136

Physiotherapists employed within the NI HPSS by grade and by trust as at 30 September 2003

Headcount

	Area physiotherapist/supt physiotherapist	*Senior physiotherapist 1*	*Senior physiotherapist 2*	*Basic grade physiotherapist*
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust/Foyle Community HSS Trust	8	19	4	12
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	4	21	6	1
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	5	25	11	15
Causeway HSS Trust	6	14	10	6
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	10	29	15	9
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	7	33	15	5
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	19	23	15	11
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	2	4	6	6
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	5	16	3	10
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	4	25	5	—
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	9	36	11	20
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	4	25	9	—
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	3	14	6	7
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	12	31	18	18
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	5	46	25	10
Total	103	361	159	130

Physiotherapists employed within the NI HPSS by grade and by trust as at 30 September 2004

Headcount

	Area physiotherapist/supt physiotherapist	*Senior physiotherapist 1*	*Senior physiotherapist 2*	*Basic grade physiotherapist*
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust/Foyle Community HSS Trust	8	16	8	10
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	4	22	8	—
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	8	24	9	20
Causeway HSS Trust	7	18	9	5
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	15	29	16	6
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	8	36	11	8
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	22	23	17	15
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	5	4	4	6
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	6	16	8	8
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	7	25	8	—
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	9	41	11	21
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	10	20	11	—
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	5	19	3	3
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	13	33	15	20
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	4	56	26	11
Total	131	382	164	133

Physiotherapists employed within the NI HPSS by grade and by trust as at 30 September 2005

Headcount

	Area physiotherapist/supt physiotherapist	*Senior physiotherapist 1*	*Senior physiotherapist 2*	*Basic grade physiotherapist*
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust/Foyle Community HSS Trust	7	18	10	10
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	4	21	8	3
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	9	26	6	17
Causeway HSS Trust	6	19	9	7
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	15	29	20	8
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	10	40	14	8
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	26	23	18	13
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	6	4	4	7
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	6	18	7	8
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	8	27	8	—
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	9	41	11	26

Physiotherapists employed within the NI HPSS by grade and by trust as at 30 September 2005

Headcount

	Area physiotherapist/supt physiotherapist	*Senior physiotherapist 1*	*Senior physiotherapist 2*	*Basic grade physiotherapist*
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	14	20	8	—
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	7	19	3	8
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	14	37	17	15
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	10	51	28	12
Total	145	393	171	142

Physiotherapists employed within the NI HPSS by grade and by trust as at 30 September 2006

Headcount

	Area physiotherapist/supt physiotherapist	*Senior physiotherapist 1*	*Senior physiotherapist 2*	*Basic grade physiotherapist*
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust/Foyle Community HSS Trust	6	21	16	8
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	4	24	6	4
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	12	25	6	18
Causeway HSS Trust	6	19	9	7
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	18	26	22	11
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	10	41	15	10
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	21	27	17	13
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	6	4	3	6
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	6	19	6	8
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	8	28	10	—
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	9	40	10	24
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	14	24	7	—
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	6	19	3	9
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	14	38	20	17
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	13	53	30	12
Total	153	408	180	147

Notes:
Area physiotherapist/supt physiotherapist contains staff at all levels within the area physiotherapist and supt physiotherapist grades.
Basic grade physiotherapist includes staff at the following grades: physiotherapist, graduate entry physiotherapist and diploma entry physiotherapist.
Source:
Human Resource Management System.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety physiotherapy taskforce has met since its formation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting. [127125]

Paul Goggins: The Physiotherapy taskforce met twice. The first meeting was held 9 November 2006 and the second on 21 November 2006. Further correspondence occurred via email. The taskforce have reported to me and I have endorsed their proposals for immediate action to fund 10 time-bound three-month placements for newly qualified physiotherapists. Copies of the minutes of both meetings will be placed in the Library.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many physiotherapy graduates were working as volunteers in each health trust area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and how many such volunteers went on to gain employment within each trust. [127126]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is presented in the following table.

Trust	*Year*	*Number of physiotherapy graduates employed as volunteers*	*Number of volunteers who went on to gain employment in the trust*
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	2003-04	One overseas graduate who was applying for HPC registration	None
	2005-06	One graduate hoping to return to employment after a long break in service	1
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	2005-06	One (for three months)	This volunteer was offered a temporary post but declined due to being in a longer term contract in Kilkenny
Causeway HSS Trust	2005-06	1	1

Trust	Year	Number of physiotherapy graduates employed as volunteers	Number of volunteers who went on to gain employment in the trust
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust[1]	2005-06	5	None however all five are now employed in NI by other Trusts
	2006-07	3	One employed by another Trust in NI, two still pursuing employment
Foyle Community HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Craigavon and—Banbridge HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	2006-07	0	—
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	2006-07	0	—

[1] Green Park were unable to provide figures for years prior to 2005-06 within the timescale.
Source:
The information is not held centrally and has been obtained directly from Trusts.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland took a career break in each of the last five years, broken down by grade; how many of those involved have since returned to work; what the Police Service of Northern Ireland's policy is on career breaks; when it was last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [123515]

Paul Goggins: The current policy on career breaks within the Police Service of Northern Ireland was introduced in May 2006 and is due for review in May 2007. Prior to the introduction of this policy there was no formal facility or policy for career breaks. Police officers could avail of unpaid leave but no figures have been collated relating to this. The number of officers who have taken career breaks under the current policy is 12, of which one has returned to work.

	Constables	Inspector
2006	10	1
2007	—	1

The policy on career breaks is designed to provide a means for police officers who have completed their initial probationary period to spend a period of time away from work pursuing other activities without giving up their career, and can last for between one to five years. While on a career break, officers may not pursue a business interest or other paid employment, or full time education unless it falls within policy guidelines and regulations. Although unpaid, officers retain their salary points and rank and sympathetic consideration is given to officers with regard to returning to their previous post. Should it be necessary, appropriate training can be provided on return.

Respite Care

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were waiting for respite care in each health trust area in Northern Ireland as of 1 March; and how many of those have been waiting *(a)* 0-3, *(b)* 3-5, *(c)* 6-9, *(d)* 10-12, *(e)* 13-16 and *(f)* longer than 16 months. [126961]

Paul Goggins: Information on the total number of people waiting for respite care is not available centrally. Information is, however, available on the number of adults waiting for respite care at 31 December 2006 (the latest date for which such information is available) and is shown, according to the time bands for which the information is collected, in the following table.

	Length of time waiting for respite care					
Health and Social Services Trust	Under 1 month	1 month - under 3 months	3 months - under 6 months	6 months - under 12 months	12 months and over	Total
Down Lisburn	0	0	0	0	0	0
North and West Belfast	8	14	10	2	2	36
South and East Belfast	0	1	2	1	0	4
Ulster	1	0	8	4	2	15
Causeway	13	3	10	12	3	41
Home first	1	1	0	15	0	17
Armagh and Dungannon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon and Banbridge	4	3	0	0	6	13

Length of time waiting for respite care

Health and Social Services Trust	*Under 1 month*	*1 month - under 3 months*	*3 months - under 6 months*	*6 months - under 12 months*	*12 months and over*	*Total*
Newry and Mourne	0	0	0	6	4	10
Foyle	3	2	4	12	2	23
Sperrin Lakeland	13	0	0	0	0	13
Northern Ireland Total	43	24	34	52	19	172

Notes:
1. Figures are provisional.
2. The information applies to any adult who has been assessed to be in need of respite care, and who has not yet received their first respite break. The length of time waiting is the length of time between the identification of need for respite care and the end of the quarter.
3. Adults are defined as persons aged 18 and over.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are taken to ensure that fines imposed for benefit fraud in Northern Ireland are paid. [119344]

Paul Goggins: Any fine imposed by a court will result in a fine notice being issued to the defendant, stipulating a period of time to pay and giving the defendant the opportunity to apply to the court for further time to pay or for an order to pay by instalments. The notice will also include a warning that non-payment will result in the issue of a warrant committing the defendant to prison and additional costs attendant upon such issue.

If payment is not received within the period allowed, a "Warrant of Commitment for Sum Adjudged to be paid by Conviction" will be automatically issued to PSNI to either collect the money or lodge the defendant in HM Prison/YOC.

Warrants are registered and sent to the District Command Unit in which the defendant is believed to reside. Management of the execution process varies across District Command Units according to available resources and competing operational demands. While the execution of some warrants will not present difficulties, others may be problematic and will necessitate a more determined effort by police.

Although not an exhaustive list, the following enquiries should be carried out:

Personal calls to the address shown on the warrant at different times of the day and days of the week.

Enquiries with neighbours, friends and family where appropriate.

Checks on ICIS and PPS Case Prep.

Enquiries with local Criminal Intelligence Officer.

Enquiries with Criminal Intelligence Officer at previous address/address last proceeded against where appropriate.

Enquiries with previous investigating officers where applicable.

All actions are logged on a warrant action sheet and attached to the warrant. This will be the original contemporaneous record of efforts made to execute the warrant. From a technical perspective, a new integrated IT application has been developed which will manage all warrants from their issue at court through to execution. This system, along with other measures under consideration, should lead to improved monitoring and accountability.

Special Educational Needs

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* special educational needs tribunal cases and *(b)* special educational needs judicial review cases there were in each education and library board in each of the last five years. [124369]

Maria Eagle: The number of appeals to the special educational needs tribunal in each education and library board for each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
BELB	8	4	3	3	1
NEELB	6	13	12	9	9
SEELB	6	3	13	13	3
SELB	12	4	4	3	3
WELB	2	10	5	4	11

The number of special educational needs judicial reviews in each education and library board for each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
BELB	0	1	1	4	3
NEELB	2	0	2	1	0
SEELB	0	2	9	8	5
SELB	0	0	1	2	0
WELB	0	0	0	0	1

Sports: Facilities

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many public sports facilities in Northern Ireland offer sunbeds for public use. [127115]

David Cairns: None of the 26 district councils offer sunbeds for public use.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Balkans: Arms Trade

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many import licences were granted for arms from *(a)* Bosnia and Herzegovina, *(b)* Croatia and *(c)* Serbia and Montenegro in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by type of import licence description. [126548]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry issues licences to import firearms that fall under the Firearms Act 1968, as amended.

A total of 92 open import licences were granted from 1 January 2006 to date that would allow arms to be imported from any country other than a member state of the European Union (AY). These licences are valid for non prohibited firearms such as bolt action rifles and certain shot guns.

A total of 53 specific import licences were granted from 1 January 2006 to date that would allow the import of arms from *(a)* Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA), *(b)* Croatia, *(c)* Serbia (XS) and Montenegro prohibited under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended. The following table is divided into those licences that specify a specific country and those that could be used for importing arms from any country including those listed (AY).

Import licences issued from 1 January 2006 to date

Country of consignment	*Description*
Description on Open Import Licence for Non-prohibited Firearms	
AY	Firearms, component parts thereof, or ammunition of any applicable Tariff Heading, other than those falling under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended by the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988, the Firearms (Amendment) Regulations (1992), the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997, the Firearms (Amendment) (No.2) Act 1997 and the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003
Description on Specific Import Licences for Prohibited Firearms	
AY	No more than 75 in total of the following weapon types complete with sights optic/night: sub machine guns/light machine guns/medium machine guns/heavy machine guns/automatic cannon/cannon/assault rifles/carbines/self-loading rifles/carbines/automatic rifles/carbines/pump action rifles/carbines, cal 3 mm-57 mm/.17"-1"75 x silencers
AY	60 x handguns (cal. 2 mm-27 mm/.172-1")
AY	5 x silencers and 45 shotguns (pump, revolver, automatic and semi-automatic) cal. .410", 28G, 20G, 12G,16G, 8G, 4G
AY	No more than: 10,000 x weapons to which section 5(1)(a) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies/600 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ab) of the Act applies/6,000 x weapons to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Act applies/100 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ac) of the Act applies/3,000 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ae) of the Act applies/750 x anti-riot guns to which section 5(1)(b) of the Act applies/600,000 x component parts to which sections 5(1)(a) and 5(1)(aba) of the Act applies/700,000 x rounds of ammunition to which section 5(1A)(e) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies

Import licences issued from 1 January 2006 to date

Country of consignment	*Description*
AY	No more in total than the following: 110 x lightweight multiple launchers/500 x shoulder launch anti-armour missiles/10 x vehicle missile launchers/2,600 x close-air defence missiles/220 x air to ground anti-armour missiles/20 x disarmed sectional missiles/75 x automatic/semi-automatic rifles/carbines (modified)/25 x machine guns (modified)/15 x grenade launchers (modified)/2 x drill anti-tank weapons/5 x drill close-air-defence missiles/88 x helicopter mounted missile launchers/2,000 x anti-tank missiles/200 surface-to-air missiles/100 x air-to-air missiles/500 x shoulder launch aiming units/200 x practice missiles
AY	No more than 500 in total of prohibited weapons and prohibited ammunition to which sections 5(1)(c) and 5(1A)(b) of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended applies
AY	12 x firearms to which section 5(1)(a) of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended applies/12 x firearms to which section 5(1)(ab) of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended applies/12 x firearms to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended applies
AY	5,000 x automatic weapons of all types
AY	1,000 x semi-automatic (self-loading) rifles and carbines of all types
AY	200 x short barrelled shotguns fed by slide, pump or lever action or by self loading mechanism
AY	2,000 x large and small calibre pistols and revolvers (handguns) of all types
AY	10 x .223 semi-automatic rifles/carbines
AY	No more than 10,000 x weapons to which section 5(1)(a) of the Firearms Act1968, as amended, applies/600 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ab) of the Act applies/6,000 x weapons to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Act applies/100 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ac) of the Act applies/3,000 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ae) of the Act applies/750 x anti-riot guns to which section 5(1)(b) of the Act applies/600,000 x component parts to which sections 5(1)(a) and5(1)(aba) of the Act applies/700,000 x rounds of ammunition to which section5(1A)(e) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies
AY	5 x silencers and no more than 45 x pump action, automatic, semi-automatic, revolver shotguns (cal. .410", 28G, 20G, 12G,16G, 8G, 4G)
AY	No more than 75 of the following weapons complete with sights optic/night: Sub machine guns /light machine guns/medium machine guns/heavy machine guns/automatic cannon/cannon/assault rifles/carbines/self-loading rifles/carbines/automatic rifles/carbines/pump action rifles/carbines, cal. 3 mm-57 mm/.17"-1"75 x silencers
AY	5 x silencers/10 x derringers/30 x handguns/5 x machine pistols (cal. 2 mm-27 mm/.172-1")

Import licences issued from 1 January 2006 to date

Country of consignment	*Description*
AY	No more in total than 13,000 x weapons to which sections 5(1)(a), 5(1)(ab), (ac) and (ae) of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended applies/1,300 x weapons to which section 5(1)(b) of the Act as referred to applies (excluding electro-shock weapons)/300 x weapons to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Act as referred to applies/8,000 x component parts to which sections 5(1)(a) and 5(1)(aba) of the Act as referred to applies/25,000 x items to which sections 5(1)(c), 5(1A)(d) and 5 (1 A)(e) of the Act as referred to applies
AY	100 x pistols to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies
AY	No more than 200 x prohibited weapons falling under sections 5(1)(a), 5(1)(ab), 5(1)(ac), 5(1)(ad), 5(1)(ae) and 5(1A)(c) of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended/ No more in total than 150 x prohibited weapons falling under section 5(1)(aba) of the Act
AY	No more than the following: 10,000 x weapons to which section 5(1)(a) of the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended), applies/600 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ab) of the Act applies/1,000 x weapons to which section5(1)(aba) of the Act applies/100 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ac) of the Act applies/3,000 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ae) of the Act applies/750 x anti-riot weapons to which section5(1)(b) of the Act applies/600,000 x component parts to which sections 5(1)(a) and 5(1)(aba) of the Act applies/700,000 x rounds of ammunition to which section 5(1A)(c) of the Act applies
AY	6,300 x 9 mm pistols/90,000 x rounds of 12.7 mm ammunition
AY	90 x 12.7 mm machine guns/85 x 7.62 mm machine guns /12 x 7.62 mm sniper rifles
AY	110 x lightweight multiple launchers/500 x shoulder launch anti-armour missiles/40 x vehicle missile launchers/2,600 x close-air defence missiles/220 x air-to- ground anti-armour missiles/20 x disarmed sectioned missiles/75 x automatic and semi-automatic rifles/carbines (modified)/25 x machine guns (modified)/15 x grenade launchers (modified)/2 x drill anti-tank weapons/5 x drill close-air-defence missiles/2,000 x anti-tank missiles/300 x shoulder launch aiming units/200 x surface-to-air missiles/200 x practice missiles/88 x helicopter mounted missile launchers/100 x air-to-air missiles
AY	20 x 5.8x42 mm automatic rifles/20 x 5.56 mm automatic rifles/20 x 7.65 mm sub machine guns/30,000 x rounds of 7.65 mm ammunition/10,000 x rounds of 5.8 mm ammunition
AY	No more than 500 x prohibited ammunition to which sections 5(1)(c) and 5(1 A)(b) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies
AY	12 x weapons to which section 5(1)(a) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies/12 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ab) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies/12 x weapons to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies
AY	9,000 x automatic weapons of all types

Import licences issued from 1 January 2006 to date

Country of consignment	*Description*
AY	1,000 x semi-automatic (self-loading) rifles and carbines of all types
AY	200 x short barrelled shotguns fed by slide, pump or lever action or by self-loading mechanism
AY	2,000 x large and small calibre pistols and revolvers (handguns) of all types
AY	No more than 500 x automatic weapons of all types, semi-automatic weapons, grenade launchers, handguns and component parts for the preceding firearms
AY	100 x firearms to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended, applies
AY	12 x weapons to which section 5(1)(a) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended applies/12 x weapons to which section 5(1)(ab) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended applies/12 x weapons to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended applies
AY	5 x silencers/10 x derringers/30 x handguns/5 x machine pistols
AY	5 x silencers / 45 x shotguns (pump, revolver, automatic, semi-automatic in calibres .410", 28G, 20G, 16G, 12G, 8G, 4G)
AY	5 x silencers/No more than 75 of the following weapons complete with sights optic/night: Sub machine guns/light machine guns/medium machine guns/heavy machine guns/automatic cannon/cannon/assault rifles/carbines/self-loading rifles/carbines/automatic rifles/carbines/pump action rifles/carbines, cal. 3 mm-97 mm/.17"-1"
AY	No more in total than 13,000 x weapons to which sections 5(1)(a), 5(1)(ab), (ac) and (ae) of the Firearms Act 1968 as amended applies/1,300 x weapons to which section 5(1)(b) of the Act as referred to applies (excluding electro-shock weapons)/300 x weapons to which section 5(1)(aba) of the Act as referred to applies/8,000 x component parts to which sections 5(1)(a) and 5(1)(aba) of the Act as referred to applies/25,000 x items to which sections 5(1)(c), 5(1A)(d) and 5(1A)(e) of the Act as referred to applies
AY	6,300 x 9 mm pistols/90,000 x rounds of 12.7 mm API ammunition
AY	10,000 x section 5(1)(a)/600 x section 5(1)(ab)/8,000 x section 5(1)(aba)/ 100 x section 5(1)(ac)/3,000 x section 5(1)(ae)/750 x section 5(1)(b)/600,000 x component parts under sections 5(1)(a) and (aba)/700,000 x section 5(1 A)(c)
AY	12 x firearms to which section 5(1)(a)/12 x section 5(1)(ab)/12 x section 5(1)(aba) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended applies.
AY	14 x Dragunov semi-automatic rifles/90 x 12.7 mm machine guns/85 x 7.62 mm machine guns

Import licences issued from 1 January 2006 to date

Country of consignment	*Description*
AY	No more in total than the following: 110 x lightweight multiple launchers/500 x shoulder launch anti-armour missiles/10 x vehicle missile launchers /2,600 x close-air defence missiles/220 x air to ground anti-armour missiles/20 x disarmed sectional missiles/75 x automatic/semi-automatic rifles/carbines (modified)/25 x machine guns (modified)/15 x grenade launchers (modified)/2 x drill anti-tank weapons/5 x drill close-air-defence missiles/88 x helicopter mounted missile launchers/2,000 x anti-tank missiles/200 surface-to-air missiles/100 x air-to-air missiles/500 x shoulder launch aiming units/200 x practice missiles
AY	No more than 500 x prohibited weapons and ammunition to which sections 5(1)(c) and 5(1A)(b) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended applies
BA	30 x AKM 7.62x39 rifles/30 x Dragunov 7.62x54 rifles/6 x PKM 7.62x54 machine guns/15 x RPG-7 rocket launchers/110 x RPG-7 Commando 5 rocket launchers/1 x 60 mm M90 mortar/1 x 81 mm M69B(D) mortar/1 x 120 mm M-75 mortar
XS	5 x German MG42 light machine guns 7.92 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same/3 x German MG34 light machine guns 7.92 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same /7 x Czech ZB30 light machine guns 7.92 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same/2 x British Vickers medium machine guns .303 cal and 20 x spare barrels for same/5 x Belgian MAG58 light machine guns 7.62 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same/5 x Danish Madsen light machine guns 7.92 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same /12 x US-1919A4 light machine guns 30-06 and 20 x spare barrels for same/20 x British L4A3 machine guns 7.62 mm/8 x German MP41 sub machine guns 9mm /15 x French MAT49 sub machine guns 9 mm/30 x British Sten sub machine guns 9 mm/13 x British L1A1 Automat rifles 7.62 mm/10 x US M1 carbines .30 cal
XS	8 x Czech VZ27 7.65 mm pistols/9 x Belgian 1910/22 7.65 mm pistols/1 x German7.65 mm Mauser pistol/1 x Polish Radom P-35 9 mm pistol/2 x German P-38 9 mm pistols
XS	50 x .50 cal M2HB Brownings/200 x PPSH41 7.62 sub machine guns/100 x MG42 7.92 light machine guns/20 x DP26 7.92 light machine guns
XS	150 x Browning .50 cal M2 heavy barrel machine guns
XS	8 x Czech VZ27 7.65 mm pistols/9 x Belgian 1910/22 7.65 mm pistols/1 x German7.65 mm Mauser pistol/1 x Polish Radom P-35 9 mm pistol/2 x German P-38 9 mm pistols
XS	5 x German MG42 light machine guns 7.92 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same /3 x German MG34 light machine guns 7.92 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same/7 x Czech ZB30 light machine guns 7.92 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same/2 x British Vickers medium machine guns .303 cal and 20 x spare barrels for same/5 x Belgian MAG58 light machine guns 7.62 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same/5x Danish Madsen light machine guns 7.92 mm and 20 x spare barrels for same/12x US-1919A4 light machine guns 30-06 c. and 20 x spare barrels for same/20 x British L4A3 machine guns 7.62 mm/8 x German MP41 sub machine guns 9 mm/15 x French MAT49 sub machine guns 9 mm/30 x British Sten sub machine guns 9 mm/13 x British L1A1 automatic rifles 7.62 mm /10 x US M1 carbines .30 cal.

Import licences issued from 1 January 2006 to date

Country of consignment	*Description*
XS	20 x DP26/28 7.92 light machine guns/200 x .30 cal. Browning 1919 light machine guns/500 x .45ACP Thompson sub machine guns/20 x Czech ZB 26/30 7.92 light machine guns/100 x MP44 7.92 automatic rifles/200 x MP40 9 mm sub machine guns
XS	13 x Tokarev 7.62x25 mm Pistols
XS	40 x Browning M2HB .50CAL heavy machine guns/200 x PPSH41 sub machine guns 7.62MM/100 x MG42 light machine guns 7.92mm/100 x MG34 light machine guns 7.92MM/20 x DP26 light machine guns 7.62MM

Businesses: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment in the UK to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126643]

Malcolm Wicks: The Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanied the regulations estimated one-off costs to businesses to be in the region of £150 million. Recurring costs were estimated to be in the region of £70 million to £150 million per annum to businesses. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has an agreement in place with the National Weights and Measures Laboratory to enforce the UK Regulations at a cost of £0.4 million per annum.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the End-of-Life Vehicles (Producer Responsibility) Regulations 2005 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126650]

Malcolm Wicks: The Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanied the regulations identified no significant one-off costs. Recurring costs to businesses were estimated to be between £23 million and £36 million per annum. Costs to the regulators are estimated to be £0.1 million per annum.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations 2003 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126671]

Malcolm Wicks: The Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanied the regulations estimated one-off costs to businesses to be between £650 million and £850 million. Recurring costs were estimated to be between £8 million to £10 million per annum to businesses and between £0.4 million and £0.5 million per annum to the regulators.

Corruption

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to the British economy of corruption. [126939]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The report on "Bribery and Corruption: Impact on UK Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)" by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) states that

"because of its clandestine nature, it is difficult to estimate the true extent and cost of the problem of bribery and corruption".

Transparency International's Bribe-payers Index (BPI) aims to evaluate the supply side of corruption by asking business experts in emerging economies for their impressions of the likelihood that companies from the listed countries pay or offer bribes in their business activities. The UK is sixth out of 30 countries, the second G7 country and third EU country in the table.

Mechanisms are in place to address offences of bribery committed overseas by UK nationals or UK registered bodies through Part 12 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, which clarified the application of existing bribery law to the bribery of foreign public office holders and gave our courts jurisdiction over such offences. DFID has recently committed funds to the City of London police to establish a dedicated police unit dealing solely with offences of bribery overseas.

Departments: Orders and Regulations

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many pages of regulations his Department laid before Parliament in 2006. [126890]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department put before Parliament 63 sets of regulations in 2006. However, we do not hold, centrally, information on the number of pages per set of regulations.

Information is held on the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) website, www.opsi.gov.uk, for every set of regulations.

Departments: Sales

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1167W, which fixed assets his Department sold for less than £10,000 in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; and what the (i) sale value, (ii) purchaser and (iii) date of sale was of each asset. [126803]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of fixed assets sold by the Department of Trade and Industry for less than £10,000 during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:

	Fixed asset type	*Proceeds (£)*	*Purchaser*	*Date of sale*
(a)	2004-05			
	Microfabrication building[1]	1.00	Laboratory of the Government Chemist	31 August 2005
(b)	2005-06			
	Furniture	3,985.50	Defence Bills Agency	22 November 2005
	Furniture: cabinets—100 at £296.10 each	29,610.00	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	19 December 2005
	Furniture: cabinets—46 at £296.10 each	13,620.60	Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service	1 March 2006
	Total	47,216.10	—	—

[1] Due for demolition. Transferred to Laboratory of the Government Chemist for £1.00.

Departments: St. George's Day

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans his Department has to celebrate St. George's Day. [125703]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry plans to fly the St. George's flag on St. George's Day.

MG Rover

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether funds have been transferred from his Department's science budget to the budget for work associated with the collapse of MG Rover; and if he will make a statement. [126308]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* DTI 2007-08 budgets face significant pressures. In order to manage these, the Department has identified budget reductions that will allow savings to be recycled to pressures. However it has also been necessary to use some of the accumulated unspent funds within the science budget to seek to manage these pressures. The pressures that require funding include, but are not limited to, the rescue package for British Energy, costs associated with the MG Rover collapse, pan European space projects and the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. There will be no direct hypothecation of savings identified to individual pressures.

National Income: Europe

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which sub-regions in Europe have a gross value added rate under 75 per cent. [127371]

Margaret Hodge: Eurostat does not publish gross value added data, but instead publishes data for gross domestic product (GDP) for all regions and sub-regions in the European Union (EU). For the current round of structural funds, areas in receipt of convergence objective funding—the highest level of funding—were defined as those NUTS 2 regions with GDP per capita less than 75 per cent. of the EU average, expressed in terms of purchasing power parities (PPP), using the average of data for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002.

The latest data available at NUTS 2 (sub-regional) level from Eurostat are for the year 2004. The following table shows all NUTS 2 regions in the EU with GDP per capita in 2004 less than 75 per cent. of the EU average, including all 27 current member states, in terms of PPP.

NUTS 2 region	*GDP per capita as a percentage of EU27 average*
In Bulgaria:	
Yugozapaden	49.1
Yuzhentsentralen	29.9
Severoiztochen	29.3
Severen tsentralen	26.4
Severozapaden	25.6
Yuzhen tsentralen	25.6
In the Czech Republic:	
Stredni Cechy	69.9
Jihozapad	69.6
Jihovychod	67.4
Severovychod	63.7
Moravskoslezsko	61.1
Severozapad	60.7
Stredni Morava	59.8
Estonia	55.7
In Spain:	
Extremadura	67.1
In France:	
Martinique	74.3
Guadeloupe	64.9
Reunion	60.5
Guyane	54.4
In Greece:	
Peloponnisos	69.0
Kentriki Makedonia	68.2
Ipeiros	67.5
Thessalia	66.3
Dytiki Makedonia	62.7
Voreio Aigaio	60.6
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	56.7
Dytiki Ellada	54.3
In Hungary:	
Nyugat-Dunantul	66.8
Kozep-Dunantul	61.1
Del-Dunantul	45.6
Del-Alfold	44.2
Eszak-Magyarorszag	42.5
Eszak-Alfold	41.9
In Italy:	
Puglia	69.8
Calabria	68.3
Campania	68.4
Sicilia	67.3
Lithuania	51.1
Latvia	45.5
Malta	74.4
In Poland:	
Slaskie	57.0
Wielkopolskie	54.5
Dolnoslaskie	51.7
Pomorskie	49.6
Zachodniopomorskie	47.2
Lodzkie	46.7
Lubuskie	45.4
Kujawsko-Pomorskie	45.4
Opolskie	43.6
Malopolskie	43.4
Warminsko-Mazurskie	39.4
Swietokrzyskie	39.3
Podlaskie	37.9
Podkarpackie	35.4
Lubelskie	35.2
In Portugal:	
Alentejo	70.3
Regiao Autonoma dos Acores	65.9
Centro	64.3
Norte	58.8
In Romania:	
Bucuresti - Ilfov	64.5
Vest	39.0
Centru	35.5
Nord-Vest	33.0
Sud-Est	30.7
Sud-Vest Oltenia	28.8
Sud - Muntenia	28.4
Nord-Est	23.6
In Slovakia:	
Zapadne Slovensko	52.7
Stredne Slovensko	46.7
Vychodne Slovensko	43.3

Post Office: Rural Areas

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the proportion of people in rural areas who use post offices regularly; and what research he has evaluated on that proportion. [126597]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has considered information on post offices in rural areas from a range of sources including Postcomm, Post Office Ltd. and National Federation of Sub-Postmasters. Post Office Ltd.'s rural pilot activity report, published in March 2006, indicates that the rural network serves a rural population of 21 million people. However, analysis of customer usage levels also indicates that a total of 1,600 rural post offices serve fewer than 20 customers a day.

Research: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made on achieving the European Union target of three per cent. of GDP being allocated to research and development investment by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [126678]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* The aspiration for investment in R&D across EU countries to reach 3 per cent. of GDP by 2010 is a challenge for Europe as a whole. But it is not necessarily appropriate for an individual member state.

In the light of UK circumstances, the 10-year Science and Innovation Framework set out a long-term ambition to see the total R&D to GDP ratio in the UK increase to 2.5 per cent. of GDP by 2014. The R&D measure is the Gross Expenditure in Research and Development (GERD), which is the sum of R&D performed in business (BERD) and public expenditure on R&D, by Government Departments and higher education.

The latest available GERD and BERD figures for the UK and the EU are in the following table.

GERD as per cent of GDP

	2003	2004
United Kingdom	1.8	1.7
EU25	1.8	1.8
EU15	1.9	1.9

BERD as per cent of GDP

	2003	2004	2005
United Kingdom	1.1	1.1	1.1
EU25	1.1	1.1	1.1
EU15	1.2	1.2	1.2

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment has been made by his Department of the possible effect on international competitiveness in *(a)* biosciences, *(b)* engineering sciences and *(c)* medical research of the 2007-08 reduction in funding to the UK Research Councils; and if he will make a statement. [126679]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* In order to help to manage the significant pressures on the Department's budget in 2007-08, a decision has been made to use some of the accumulated unspent funds within the science budget. This decision will not affect research projects which are already being funded.

The UK has a strong track record in research excellence, and benefits from a consistently good performance across disciplines. On the basis of an independent report, it is currently ranked second in the world in biosciences and health-related sciences, and fourth in engineering. The report is available on the DTI website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file27339.pdf

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he plans to assess the impact on scientific research of the planned reduction in funding to UK Research Councils in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [126680]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* In order to help to manage the significant pressures on the Department's budget in 2007-08, a decision has been made to use some of the accumulated unspent funds within the science budget. This decision will not affect research projects which are already being funded. The sum in question amounts to less that 1 per cent. of the nearly £10 billion awarded to science over the three-year spending period.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1602W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what consideration the House authorities have given to providing filtered tap water as an alternative to bottled water in committee and meeting rooms; and what estimate has been made of the costs of providing *(a)* tap and *(b)* bottled water in these rooms in 2007-08. [126935]

Nick Harvey: The Serjeant at Arms has submitted a paper on the provision of water to committees for the Administration Committee's meeting on 13 March.

Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1451W, on Freedom of Information, whether the log of FOI requests is available for inspection by hon. Members. [126957]

Nick Harvey: The logs used to track the House's responses to FOI requests are maintained on computer spreadsheets. The logs include personal data relating to requesters and other third parties, a brief summary of the request and an indication of any exemption that might have been applied. Rather than providing full details of each request and response, each log makes reference to documents held in electronic and paper format; it is these documents that provide information relating to the full text of the request and the exact nature of the response. Therefore, in their current form, the logs are not available for general inspection by hon. Members. Further consideration will be given to producing and making available for inspection a summary of requests and responses. I will write to the hon. Member with the outcome of that work in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rates bill was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each government office region in England in each year since 1996-97; and what she estimates it will be in 2006-07. [114720]

Mr. Woolas: The average business rates bill (in £s) in both England and in each Government Office region in each year since 1996-97, including the estimated average figures for 2006-07, are shown in the following table.

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	England
1996-97	5,335	4,895	5,235	5,434	5,335	6,873	11,921	7,432	4,881	6,804
1997-98	5,501	5,215	5,381	5,716	5,686	7,026	10,057	7,208	7,087	6,796
1998-99	5,978	5,589	5,869	6,142	6,250	7,125	10,433	7,759	5,295	7,016
1999-2000	6,159	5,770	6,005	6,251	6,487	7,080	9,792	7,796	5,412	6,998
2000-01	6,948	6,825	6,954	7,237	7,588	8,096	12,033	9,212	6,332	8,264
2001-02	7,305	7,273	7,433	7,670	7,756	8,476	12,842	9,705	6,570	8,714
2002-03	7,498	7,646	7,664	7,846	8,003	8,685	13,753	10,045	6,658	9,071
2003-04	7,518	7,708	7,623	7,893	8,055	8,620	14,124	10,053	6,614	9,137
2004-05	7,701	7,793	7,773	7,955	8,192	8,740	14,484	10,252	6,662	9,301
2005-06	8,367	8,086	8,317	8,477	8,672	9,575	15,705	11,124	7,195	9,997
2006-07	8,892	8,789	8,731	9,221	9,041	10,085	16,561	11,804	7,624	10,601

The data are taken from NNDR returns submitted by billing authorities. Average business rate is calculated by dividing the net rate yield from local authority's lists by the number of hereditaments on local list as at 31 December of the previous year.

Comparisons across regions and years may not be valid as the rateable values for individual properties, and hence actual rates bills, vary greatly. Changes in the figures for the years around 2000-01 are affected by transfers of properties from the central list to local lists, transfers of Crown properties to local lists and the adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2000 revaluation to take account of losses from appeals. Changes in the figures for the years around 2005-06 are also affected by adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2005 revaluation.

Energy: Conservation

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the conclusions of her inter-departmental taskforce on the improvement of energy performance in existing buildings. [123271]

Yvette Cooper: The Review of the Sustainability of Existing Buildings is looking at improving the performance of existing buildings in terms of their water efficiency and resilience to climate change, as well as energy efficiency. An initial analysis of the energy efficiency of existing dwellings was published on the CLG website in November 2006 and further work is under way.

Fire Services: Costs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the rental cost of each regional fire control centre, over the full period of its lease, inclusive of VAT and increases produced by the mechanism for future regular rental upratings. [126285]

Angela E. Smith: The rental costs of each Regional Control Centre (RCC) are shown in the following table. The costs given are over the full period of the lease, inclusive of VAT and uplifted in line with the terms of the lease. The costs, other than for London, are based on rents agreed with the developer of each RCC. Procurement of the London RCC is in progress. RCCs should be able to recover the VAT.

RCC	Estimated cost (£ million)	Lease term (years)
East Midlands	45	25
East of England	50	25
North East	31	20
North West	45	25
South East	54	25
South West	34	20
West Midlands	50	25
Yorkshire and Humberside	33	20

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public

body will pay the rental cost of each regional fire control centre from the date at which rent is payable until each emergency fire control in each region has migrated to the relevant regional control centre. [126286]

Angela E. Smith: In the period between the practical completion of a Regional Control Centre (RCC) building and the migration of the Fire Control system to that centre, the accommodation costs (including rent and facilities management) will be met by the Department for Communities and Local Government. During that period the building will be fitted out, the IT installed and tested and staff trained.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on *(a)* administration, *(b)* legal fees, *(c)* special advisers, *(d)* the website and *(e)* other costs for the home information packs programme; and what funding was originally allocated to the programme. [103847]

Yvette Cooper: The following table indicates how much the Department of Communities and Local Government has spent on administration, legal fees, external advisers, the website and other costs associated with the Home Information Pack Programme from April 2004 up to the end of January 2007. Consumers spend billions of pounds each year on the transaction costs they incur when buying and selling homes. HIPs are designed to cut waste from home buying and selling as well as providing important energy information to help cut carbon emissions. The money has been spent on: developing and testing the home condition report and other components of the pack; putting in place a quality assurance framework to protect consumers and guarantee standards; developing the necessary systems; and explaining the changes to the public and industry stakeholders.

	Total (£)
Admin spend—including salaries of those working on HIPs policy and implementation	1,529,450
Legal fees	153,903
External advisers	5,32,629
Website	103,588
Other costs—including research and area trials	2,645,151
Communications	1,800,004
Total programme spend	10,155,275
Grand total [1]	11,684,725

[1] Expenditure as recorded in the Department's accounting system from April 2004 to January 2007 inclusive.
The budget for the programme for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 is £16 million.

Home Inspectors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the suspension of the two consultants employed by her Department in relation to the regulation of home inspectors; and what communications her Department has had with the *(a)* Office of Government Commerce and *(b)* National Audit Office on the matter. [114491]

Yvette Cooper: The Department looked into this matter and concluded that it would not be using these consultants' services any further. The NAO are now conducting an inquiry into the role played by the consultants in question.

All three certification schemes approved have been assessed by a panel with the independent chair nominated by OGC, without the involvement of the consultants referred to.

Lighting: Pollution

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will consult on draft guidance on light pollution; and if she will make a statement. [126892]

Angela E. Smith: Policy responsibility for statutory nuisance from artificial light rests with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Planning controls which provide an important mechanism for limiting the effects of light pollution are the responsibility of Communities and Local Government. This means that the two Departments work closely together on this subject and are currently collaborating on the preparation of planning guidance for local planning authorities on light pollution covering both planning and pollution aspects. We will consult on this draft as soon as possible.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on introducing the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme; and what the cost of administering the scheme was in 2005-06. [126855]

Mr. Woolas: The Department cannot provide a breakdown of the costs involved in setting up and administering the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme. The Department does not monitor resource at this level of detail.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken to process a Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme award has been since the Scheme's inception; and what proportion of awards have been paid on time. [126878]

Mr. Woolas: Valuation Office Agency source data are provided to this Department in January of each year for the purpose of calculating Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) Scheme awards. Announcements of LABGI grant determinations are then made in February of each year. In the first two years of the scheme, this commitment to provide these determinations in February has been met. In both cases, payments followed in March.

Local Government Finance: Population Mobility

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department *(a)* has carried out and *(b)* intends to carry out on the implications of population mobility on public service costs to local authorities. [122084]

Mr. Woolas: Communities and Local Government have neither carried out or currently intend to carry out research on population mobility.

However, officials will discuss research relating to the implications of population mobility on funding that has been undertaken by Local Government representatives in the Settlement Working Group meetings. These will be held between February and mid-June.

Local Government: Vacancies

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues to local authorities on the advertising of job vacancies. [125969]

Mr. Woolas: The Department does not issue guidance to local authorities on the advertising of job vacancies. Local government is responsible for its own recruitment practices, and is subject to the same employment laws as other sectors.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1800W, which planning authorities in Hampshire are not applying the percentages for social housing set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 3. [126411]

Yvette Cooper: PPG3 has been superseded by PPS3, however there were no percentages for affordable housing set out in PPG3.

PPS3 asks local authorities to set a target for the amount of affordable housing to be provided in their local development documents, based on an understanding of the needs of the area. PPS3 gives a national indicative site size threshold of 15 dwellings to which the policy should apply, although local planning authorities can set lower minimum thresholds where viable and practicable.

Thames Gateway: Bridges

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make a decision on the Thames Gateway Bridge. [126515]

Meg Munn: We are currently reviewing the inspector's report, inquiry evidence and post-inquiry representations. A decision regarding the Thames Gateway bridge proposal will be issued as soon as possible.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage NATO countries to send additional forces to Afghanistan. [126977]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friends the Defence Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers are in regular contact with our NATO counterparts to ensure that commanders on the ground have access to the resources they need to carry out the International Security Assistance Force's (ISAF) mission and to ensure NATO Allies regularly review their contributions to Afghanistan. At the recent NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Brussels, 26 January, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed the need for all NATO Allies to play their part in ensuring ISAF's success. Military advice on force and capability requirements is provided by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe using the force generation process.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 992W, on Afghanistan: peace keeping operations, what she expects the UK contribution to the European Security and Defence Policy mission to Afghanistan to be. [127069]

Dr. Howells: On 12 February, the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the European Union approved the concept of a European security and defence policy mission to Afghanistan in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law. Discussions are under way in Brussels on the development of a Concept of Operations (CONOPS), which will detail the composition, objectives and cost of the mission. We plan to contribute to the mission but are awaiting the issuance of the CONOPS to determine the exact form and extent of our participation.

I also refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave him on 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 992W.

Africa: Illegal Immigrants

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the *(a)* Mauritanian and *(b)* Libyan Governments on port security and illegal immigration from Africa. [126976]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the issue of port security or illegal migration from Africa with either the Government of Mauritania or the Government of Libya. We continue to discuss these important issues with both Governments at a working level.

Albania: EC Enlargement

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has received requests from Albania for UK assistance in

that country's efforts to meet the criteria for EU membership. [126986]

Mr. Hoon: The UK has been working for some time to assist the Government of Albania in their efforts to meet the criteria for EU membership. The UK contributes politically through the EU's Stabilisation and Association process and practically through Government-funded projects in the country which focus on developing administrative and technical capacity.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Children

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects the United Nations Envoy on Children and Armed Conflict to report following her mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo. [126697]

Mr. McCartney: The United Nations Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) between 4-9 March. She will brief the diplomatic community on return to New York after 14 March.

The Special Representative's visit aims to ensure greater protection for children as the DRC emerges from years of civil war. She will discuss with the Congolese Government the issues of children associated with armed groups, sexual violence and impunity.

Progress on disarmament and demobilisation of child soldiers in the DRC has been relatively successful. But their reintegration back into society has been slow. The UK has given £15 million to the World Bank-led regional multi-country demobilisation and reintegration programme and £3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross for programmes including child reintegration. We will continue to press the new DRC Government to take responsibility for reintegration and make it a priority.

European Union: Constitution

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will provide for a referendum on any proposed EU constitution. [126993]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have confirmed repeatedly that the treaty establishing a constitution for Europe would be ratified by the UK only after a positive vote in a referendum. However, there is no consensus at present among EU member states on the future of the constitutional treaty. The way forward will be discussed at the European Council in June. The Government make no presumption regarding the outcome of these discussions and will not speculate about their outcome.

Foreign Relations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of *(a)* the meeting of the foreign ministers of India, China and Russia in Delhi on 14 February 2007 and *(b)* the outcomes of the meeting. [127335]

Dr. Howells: Our High Commission in Delhi regularly reports on India's foreign policy and relations with third countries, including emerging groupings such as the India-Russia-China forum. A Joint Communique was issued after the meeting held on 14 February in Delhi. In their joint statement, the Ministers reaffirmed that trilateral co-operation was not directed against the interests of any other country and was, on the contrary, intended to promote international harmony and understanding and find common ground amidst divergent interests. They also emphasised the strong commitment of India, Russia and China to multilateral diplomacy. The full text of the statement can be found at:

http://www.mea.gov.in/declarestatement/2007/02/14js01.htm.

Guinea: Armed Conflict

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on recent protests and conflict in Guinea; and what representations she has made to the Government of Guinea on the imposition of martial law by President Lansana Conte. [126738]

Mr. McCartney: We have been concerned by recent events in Guinea and regret the loss of life resulting from clashes between protesters and security forces. In conjunction with the EU and other international partners in Conakry, our ambassador has made several representations to the Guinean Government expressing our concern and our hope that all issues could be resolved peacefully and constitutionally. We note, and welcome, the lifting of martial law on 23 February, the end to the national strike, and the appointment of Lansana Couyate as the new Guinean Premier. We hope that Mr. Couyate will move soon to appoint a new, broadly-based and consensual Government to move Guinea forward.

North Korea

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the progress of the six party talks on North Korea in Beijing. [126753]

Mr. McCartney: The latest round of six party talks (6PT) ended in agreement on 13 February with all parties renewing their commitment to the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005. Specifically the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) agreed to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear facility and allow inspections by International Atomic Energy Agency personnel. In return, the parties have agreed to provide economic, energy and humanitarian assistance to the DPRK up to the equivalent of one million tons of heavy fuel oil. The agreement also establishes five working groups tasked with formulating plans to implement the Joint Statement. They will focus on DPRK-US relations, DPRK-Japan relations, denuclearisation, economy and energy co-operation and Northeast Asia Peace and Security Mechanism. The next round of the 6PT is scheduled to take place on 19 March, before which it is expected that all five working groups will have had a chance to hold initial discussions.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her US counterparts on the amount of Voice of America broadcasting to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. [126755]

Mr. McCartney: The issue has not been raised with my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. However, we understand the US Administration has requested an increase in funding from US$4.6 million to US$8 million for the Korean services of Voice of America and Radio Free Asia for the next financial year.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to her US counterpart on recent talks between the US and North Korea in New York. [126692]

Mr. McCartney: The US and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) held bilateral talks earlier this week in New York as part of the agreement reached at the latest round of the six party talks on 13 February. The discussions provided an opportunity for both sides to discuss bilateral concerns in an attempt to move towards normalisation of relations between the two countries. Given that these were bilateral meetings, the UK did not make any representations. Both countries have reported that the talks were constructive and a wide range of issues were covered.

The agreement reached on 13 February is a step in the right direction towards the peaceful denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. The UK will take every opportunity to urge the DPRK to fulfil the commitments it has entered into.

Philippines

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make arrangements for a visit to the Philippines to promote British interests there. [126756]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to visit the Philippines. However, my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East plans to visit the region. The bilateral relationship between the UK and the Philippines is good, with strong political, trade and investment links. We work closely with the Philippino Government on key areas of shared concern including counter-terrorism, human rights, development, conflict prevention and peace building.

Russia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to increase the number of ministerial visits to Russia to improve relations with that country. [126982]

Mr. Hoon: There were 15 ministerial visits to Russia in 2006, including my visit to Moscow in September. Russia's presidency of the G8 ensured a large number of ministerial visits and official contact during the year.

Russia remains an important partner in achieving the Government's International Strategic Priorities across a range of foreign policy issues. We shall look to take whatever practical opportunities arise to maintain direct productive contacts at ministerial level both here and in Russia. The most recent ministerial visit to Russia was by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in February 2007.

Sakhalin Island: Pipelines

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government is giving to British oil companies to negotiate with Russian authorities on the Sakhalin project. [126992]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have remained in close touch with the investors during their negotiations with the Russian authorities on the Sakhalin II project. Commercial negotiations between the investors and the Russian authorities regarding future project arrangements concluded in December 2006, and are now in the implementation phase.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry raised the issue with his Russian counterpart in February 2007 and we continue to monitor the situation.

Somalia: Terrorism

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* recent attacks on Mogadishu's airport and *(b)* the effect such attacks will have on the work of African Union peacekeepers in Somalia. [126711]

Mr. McCartney: We have noted that mortar attacks on Mogadishu airport have taken place, most recently on 6 March. Despite efforts by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia some rogue elements continue to mount limited attacks. We condemn those responsible for the recent attacks in Mogadishu and call on all parties to reject violence and commit to peaceful dialogue.

We cannot predict the effect any further attacks will have on the work of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). However, we hope that the arrival of the AMISOM will help to improve security in Somalia.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the position of Tamil civilians who reside in areas where there have been military encounters with militants for the Liberation of Tamil Tigers Eelam. [126699]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Rohitha Bogollagama, whom she met in London on 7 March, the Government's serious concern at the humanitarian impact of the conflict and the cost in terms of violence to the civilian population of Sri Lanka. The full text of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement following their meeting is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1171458466111.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the recent arrests of Sri Lankan policeman and soldiers in connection with a series of abductions and killings across the country; and what recent assessment she has made of the impartiality of the Sri Lankan armed and police forces. [126707]

Dr. Howells: We have previously raised with the Sri Lankan Government our concern that their national forces are not taking effective measures to safeguard civilians. This followed credible reports of a number of instances where it appeared that the actions of those forces had resulted in the loss of civilian life. Although there has been some media reporting, we have not received any specific reports on the allegations or the circumstances of the arrests currently in question.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear our concern, for the many Sri Lankan civilians who have become victims of violence since the escalation of the conflict, when she met with Rohitha Bogollagama, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, on 7 March. Promoting reform in the security sector to improve accountability and promote adherence to internationally accepted human rights standards is a key strand of the UK's Peace Building Strategy in Sri Lanka. The Global Conflict Prevention Pool, a Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence administered fund, supports this work.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received from the Norwegian-led Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission; and whether her Department has a standing information sharing agreement with the Mission. [126708]

Dr. Howells: There is no formal agreement for the sharing of information between the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM) and the Government. The SLMM was created as an integral part of the Cease-Fire Agreement and receives its mandate from and reports to the parties to the 2002 Sri Lanka Cease-Fire Agreement. We are not a party to that agreement. We do, however, through our High Commission in Colombo have routine contacts with the SLMM as well as with other organisations and actors in the Sri Lankan peace process.

Sri Lanka: Arms Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the amount of arms entering Sri Lanka; and what assessment she has made of the effect of the entry of arms into the country on the peace process there. [126812]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary clearly expressed our view that no party to the conflict will prevail through a military solution alone when she met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 7 March. The availability of illegally-imported weaponry, while not a cause of the conflict in itself, is undoubtedly an aggravating factor and one which acts to prolong the conflict in Sri Lanka. Through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (a Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence administered fund), the Government are working with Saferworld to help the Sri Lankans to develop a national strategy to counter the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response the UK has made to the recent peace agreement in East Sudan. [126205]

Mr. McCartney: We welcome the conclusion of the Peace Agreement on eastern Sudan between the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front rebel group in Asmara on 14 October 2006. We hope that the Agreement will form the basis for lasting peace and security in eastern Sudan. We call on the parties to continue to work together to achieve this.

Sudan: Oil

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had on a potential oil embargo on Sudan with EU counterparts. [126204]

Mr. McCartney: Recent discussions with our EU partners have focussed on building support for further targeted sanctions against individuals involved in the Darfur conflict and an extension of the existing UN arms embargo on Darfur to the whole of Sudan. We have made it clear to partners that we believe further measures will be necessary if this package does not deliver the requisite co-operation from the parties to the conflict in Darfur.

Tajikistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support she is making available to promote legislation in Tajikistan that respects the freedoms of all religious communities and individuals; and what representations she has made to the UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-Building on the promotion of freedom of religion. [126696]

Mr. Hoon: Our ambassador in Dushanbe, together with his EU colleagues, is following developments relating to the draft law on religious organisations extremely closely.

The UN special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Asma Jahangir, recently visited Tajikistan to examine questions related to respect for freedom of religious communities and individuals. The UN special rapporteur will present a report of her visit to the UN Human Rights Council.

The UK has funded a wide range of projects in Tajikistan which support the development of independent media and civil society. We also work closely with the international community in Tajikistan, including with the UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-building and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, who have programmes on developing civil society, promoting good governance and monitoring human rights.

Timor-Leste

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the situation in East Timor. [126975]

Mr. McCartney: Our Embassy in Jakarta covers East Timorese affairs with the assistance of our Honorary Consul in Dili. They provide regular reports on developments in East Timor. The Embassy deployed a team of four officials to Dili on 7 March to assess the situation on the ground and to ensure that consular arrangements for British nationals are sufficiently rigorous. They reported that Dili was calm at the time of their arrival, but that the security situation remains fragile and susceptible to change at any moment.

We are concerned by the deterioration of the security situation in East Timor and the resulting casualties and have urged all concerned to bring an end to the violence and resolve the problems within the framework of the constitution and laws.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the United Nations envoy in Timor-Leste on progress with the peace process there. [126810]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with the special representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) to East Timor. However, the UK has played a key role in the UN Security Council to ensure a robust UN Mission to East Timor has been put in place in Dili, focusing on areas of potential instability and conflict. Our officials in New York and Dili have met with the SRSG on a number of occasions. We have highlighted the importance of political reconciliation and the need for timely, peaceful and fair elections as an important part of the peace process. The UN Mission has a key role to play in public education, facilitation of political dialogue and assistance with electoral organisation. It is also working to achieve early progress in Security Sector Reform and the judicial sector, not least to ensure that elections take place in a framework that provides for long-lasting stability.

Uganda: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on Government action against High Court judges in Uganda; what assessment she has made of the implications of such activity for *(a)* human rights, *(b)* democracy and *(c)* Commonwealth activity in Uganda. [127088]

Dr. Howells: We are monitoring events surrounding the detention of the alleged People's Redemption Army suspects and the related court proceedings. The violence used by the Government forces at the Uganda High Court on 1 March to frustrate the decision of the High Court to grant the suspects bail has grave implications for the independence of the judiciary, respect for the rule of law and human rights in Uganda. The Uganda judiciary remains on strike in protest at these events.

Our high commissioner in Kampala made representations to the acting Foreign Minister, Henry Okello Oryem, on 2 March. My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, raised our concerns with the Ugandan high commissioner in London on 5 March. We are liaising with other international partners, including the Commonwealth Secretariat. We will continue to press all sides to respect the rule of law and abide by the constitution.

Uganda: Judiciary

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the freedom of the judiciary in Uganda. [126693]

Mr. McCartney: The Ugandan judiciary has been relatively free of political interference in recent years. However we are concerned about recent events surrounding the detention of the alleged People's Redemption Army suspects. The violence used by the Government forces at the Uganda High Court on 1 March to frustrate the decision of the High Court to grant the suspects bail has grave implications for the independence of the judiciary, respect for the rule of law and human rights in Uganda. The Uganda judiciary remains on strike in protest at these events.

Our high commissioner in Kampala made representations to the acting Foreign Minister, Henry Okello Oryem, on 2 March. My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, raised our concerns with the Ugandan high commissioner in London on 5 March. We will continue to press all sides to respect the rule of law and abide by the constitution.

Ukraine: EU Enlargement

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on Ukraine joining the European Union. [126984]

Dr. Howells: The Government support Ukraine's policy of EU integration and firmly believe that the door to eventual membership should remain open. Article 49 of the treaty on EU states that any European country may apply for membership if it respects the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. The Government believe that enlargement has proved our strongest tool for spreading stability and prosperity in Europe.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was allocated to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service for 2006-07; and what the outturn spending is expected to be. [126088]

Mr. Dhanda: £106,003,000 was allocated to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service for 2006-07. CAFCASS spent £25,401,400 in the third quarter of 2006-07.

Children: Day Care

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will make a statement on his proposals for wraparound child care to be introduced; when such proposals will be published; what representations he has received on such proposals; and how much has been allocated to the initiative; [127006]

(2) which schools will qualify for wraparound funding. [127007]

Beverley Hughes: We want all schools to offer access to extended services by 2010, providing a core offer of activities, with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by 2008. Primary schools are expected to provide, as part of the core offer, access to affordable child care at or through their school from 8 am to 6 pm all year round linked to a varied menu of activities. Secondary schools are not expected to offer formal child care but they are expected to provide access to a varied menu of activities (study support activities such as sports clubs, music tuition, dance, drama and art clubs) before and after school from 8 am to 6 pm and during the school holidays in response to demand. Our proposals for access to wraparound child care through schools were first published in our 10-year child care strategy "Choice for parents, the best start for children" in December 2004. We published further details in June 2005 in the Extended Schools Prospectus "Extended schools: Access to opportunities and services for all". We have received a number of formal and informal representations on this, including a number of parliamentary questions on this subject over the past two years.

We are providing £680 million over 2006-08 to support schools in developing access to extended services. £430 million is being routed via local authorities through the Standards Fund and the General Sure Start Grant, £250 million directly to schools through the School Standards Grant (SSG). Currently, over 4,000 schools are providing access to the core offer of extended services.

City Academies: Contracts

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advice and guidance is given to academies which intend to contract for commercial services with their sponsor. [126066]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* The general requirements relating to the procurement of goods and services are set out in the Academies Financial Handbook, which the Department issues to all academies. This includes the requirement for probity in procurement, to demonstrate that all parties are dealt with on a fair and equitable basis and to ensure that there is no private gain. In particular the Financial Handbook requires governors, including sponsor governors, to make formal declarations of their interests in external businesses and to withdraw from any discussions regarding potential contracting with that business.

In addition to any advice—or indeed directions—which the Department may give to academy trusts in relation to the procurement of goods and services, the law also precludes the payment of any charitable trustee—including the governors of an academy, of which the sponsor is one—unless legal authority for that payment is given in the charity's governing documents, or otherwise granted by a court or the Charity Commission.

The Charity Commission approves the governing documents of all companies proposed to be registered charities prior to granting registration, to ensure that any provisions conferring authority on the charity to make a payment to one of the trustees—or a company associated with a trustee—deal with conflicts of interest in a transparent manner.

All academy trusts use the Department's model memorandum and articles of association as a basis for their own, and these include standard conflict of interest provisions recommended by the Charity Commission. These typically require any trustee of the company, who has an interest in a particular contract, to withdraw from discussions in relation to such a contract. In order to comply with these provisions, a sponsor of an academy trust would, for example, be required to withdraw from any meetings at which a discussion took place on the proposed remuneration of either themselves, or a company with which they are associated.

Furthermore, Charity Law places an obligation on charitable trustees to act in the best interests of their respective charities, and contracting with a company in the knowledge that this might not be at the best terms available to the charity, would obviously be contrary to this obligation.

Advice and guidance is also provided through the designated Project Lead within the Department, and academies are also referred to the Public Procurement Regulations 2006.

Computing Industry

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what policies his Department is implementing to ensure that there will be sufficient qualified graduates to meet the demands of the UK computing industry. [106055]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government are committed to increasing the number of young people taking science and mathematics at advanced level and progressing to study science at university and beyond. "The Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014: Next Steps", published in March 2006, sets out a range of measures to support this.

The latest UCAS figures showing applicants for entry to higher education in 2007 show an increase of 10 per cent. in students studying mathematics and an increase of 15.8 per cent. in students studying mathematics and computer science combined.

eskills UK, the Sector Skills Council for IT and telecoms, has developed, along with employers in the IT sector, the IT Management for Business (ITMB) hons degree. eskills UK has also developed foundation degrees for the IT, telecoms and contact centre sectors, all designed to ensure that graduates get the combination of business and technical skills that are vital to business today and tomorrow.

Departments: Discrimination

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress his Department has made in achieving gender equality in public appointments to bodies which fall within his Department's responsibility since 1997. [125209]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* The Government remain committed to improving diversity on the boards of public bodies and the principle of equal representation of women and men in public appointments.

The annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies" contains details of the number of women appointed to public bodies each year by Department. For 1997-2006 copies of these documents are available in the Library for the reference of Members. From 1998 copies are also available on the internet at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public_bodies/

During 2006, women represented 31.6 per cent. of the public appointments made to non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). In January 2007, 31 per cent. of total public appointments in DfES's NDPBs were held by women.

In 1997, 23.6 per cent. of public appointments made to NDPBs by the Department for Education and Employment were held by women. Subsequent Machinery of Government changes mean that there is no direct comparison between public appointments in 1997 and in 2006.

Departments: St. George's Day

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans his Department has to celebrate St. George's Day. [125784]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has no plans to celebrate St. George's day.

Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) Regulations 2000

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) Regulations 2000 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125614]

Bill Rammell: The regulatory impact assessment prepared for the 2000 regulations estimated the one-off costs to business to be between £40 million and £80 million over the first five years of operation from April 2000 (in net present value terms at 1999). Our most recent estimate of the recurring costs to business is in the region of £20 million per year.

The one-off administrative costs incurred by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Student Loans Company in implementing student loan collection through the tax system was £16.25 million. In the 2005-06 financial year recurring administrative costs amounted to £15.25 million.[1]

[1] All costs are given on a UK wide basis.

Education: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of 14 year old *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls reached each level in the national curriculum tests in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science in each London education authority in each of the last five years. [122217]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applications were made to *(a)* university and *(b)* Russell Group universities in each year from 1996 to 2007, broken down by (i) socio-economic group and (ii) ethnicity. [122623]

Bill Rammell: The Department does not hold data on numbers of applications by type of institution and (i) socio-economic group, and (ii) ethnicity, or numbers of entrants by type of institution and socio-economic group prior to 2002/03. The latest available information relates to entrants to full-time undergraduate courses and is shown in the following tables.

Number of UK domiciled entrants to full-time undergraduate[1] courses at UK higher education institutions by national statistics socio-economic classification all institutions and Russell Group institutions—academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06

	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
		Of which:		Of which:		Of which:		Of which:
Socio-economic status (NS-SEC)	All HEIs	Russell Group	All HEIs	Russell Group	All HEIs	Russell Group	All HEIs	Russell Group
1-3[2]	151,100	41,965	166,040	47,165	167,350	47,840	171,420	45,890
4-7[3]	67,300	10,445	73,940	11,535	72,665	11,680	78,830	11,465
Total known	218,400	52,410	239,975	58,700	239,995	59,520	250,250	57,355
Of which:								
Percentage from:								
1-3[2]	69.2	80.1	69.2	80.4	69.7	80.4	68.5	80.0
4-7[3]	30.8	19.9	30.8	19.6	30.3	19.6	31.5	20.0
Not known[4]	137,070	18,585	119,415	11,920	119,465	11,600	128,770	14,110
Total	355,470	70,995	359,390	70,620	359,460	71,120	379,020	71,465

[1] Includes first degrees, foundation degrees, higher national diplomas, higher national certificates and diplomas of higher education only.
[2] Includes higher managerial and professional occupations, lower managerial and professional occupations and intermediate occupations.
[3] Includes small employers and own account workers, lower supervisory and technical occupations, semi-routine occupations and routine occupations.
[4] Includes entrants who did not state their parental occupation, those who had never worked, those who were long term unemployed and those for whom it was not possible to derive the NS-SEC.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Notes:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest 5, therefore components may not sum to totals.

Despite the claims that some have made that the variable fee system would put off those from less well off backgrounds, the latest UCAS figures for students applying for entry in autumn 2007 indicate that this has not happened. The figures indicate that although applicants from less affluent families are still in the minority, since 2005 there has been a bigger year-on-year percentage increase from applicants from the lower socio-economic groups than from applicants from more affluent backgrounds. As a result, the proportion of applicants who are from the lower socio-economic groups has risen from 30.9 per cent. in 2005 to 31.3 per cent. this year.

Number of UK domiciled entrants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions by ethnicity all institutions and Russell Group institutions—academic years 1996/97 to 2000/01

	1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000		2000/01	
Ethnicity	All HEIs	Of which: Russell Group	All HEIs	Of which: Russell Group	All HEIs	Of which: Russell Group	All HEIs	Of which: Russell Group	All HEIs	Of which: Russell Group
White	249,890	43,265	259,330	43,550	256,835	45,825	258,710	47,700	259,080	52,655
Black Caribbean	4,180	145	4,310	155	3,955	160	3,710	190	3,725	190
Black African	6,090	340	6,230	325	6,800	385	6,670	470	7,400	580
Black other	1,755	85	1,945	100	2,060	140	2,120	135	2,305	175
Indian	12,305	1,470	13,190	1,685	13,630	1,755	13,995	1,890	14,920	2,420
Pakistani	6,745	605	7,215	610	7,380	595	7,680	695	8,075	865
Bangladeshi	1,830	180	1,955	180	2,025	200	2,185	235	2,465	275
Chinese	2,950	630	3,100	665	3,090	640	3,335	685	3,405	855
Asian other	3,610	600	3,755	655	3,600	655	3,695	720	3,985	875
Other	4,855	755	6,095	850	5,670	865	5,730	910	6,275	1,155
Total known	294,205	48,070	307,115	48,780	305,035	51,225	307,825	53,590	311,630	60,040
Information refused	16,485	2,430	16,645	4,555	15,340	3,375	9,400	860	8,395	1,330
Information not yet sought	8,330	2,565	7,325	1,280	5,240	1,515	4,905	1,255	4,055	1,275
Not known	2,315	600	4,040	890	5,755	870	6,130	935	6,925	965
Total	321,335	53,665	335,130	55,505	331,370	56,985	328,265	56,640	331,005	63,610

Notes:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Number of UK domiciled entrants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions by ethnicity: all institutions and Russell Group institutions—academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

	2001/02		2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
Ethnicity	*All HEIs*	*Of which: Russell Group*	*All HEIs*	*Of which: Russell Group*	*All HEIs*	*Of which: Russell Group*	*All HEIs*	*Of which: Russell Group*	*All HEIs*	*Of which: Russell Group*
White	270,155	55,080	282,210	59,515	283,940	59,035	285,265	59,560	300,290	60,115
Black or Black British—Caribbean	4,390	260	4,810	345	5,085	330	5,475	305	5,855	305
Black or Black British—African	8,670	735	9,710	840	11,335	960	12,680	970	14,220	1,050
Other Black background	1,310	85	1,540	80	1,500	100	1,410	90	1,490	75
Asian or Asian British—Indian	15,670	2,725	15,695	2,865	15,375	2,835	15,245	2,870	15,475	2,845
Asian or Asian British—Pakistani	9,060	1,045	9,215	1,115	9,290	1,130	9,415	1,200	9,765	1,150
Asian or Asian British—Bangladeshi	2,735	320	2,730	340	2,865	295	3,565	370	3,745	300
Chinese	3,755	995	3,870	1,090	3,735	1,100	3,905	1,135	3,820	1,100
Other Asian background	3,940	850	4,230	985	4,015	940	4,300	995	4,700	975
Mixed	5,435	1,275	6,560	1,575	7,305	1,695	8,330	1,890	9,880	2,035
Other Ethnic background	2,970	500	2,840	470	2,905	420	3,110	480	3,655	565
Total known	328,090	63,870	343,415	69,215	347,350	68,835	352,695	69,860	372,890	70,515
Information refused	10,375	2,450	8,000	1,430	7,250	1,080	5,505	755	4,650	565
Not known	11,265	1,505	9,240	1,000	10,120	1,165	7,205	1,220	7,800	1,685
Total	349,730	67,825	360,655	71,640	364,720	71,080	365,410	71,835	385,340	72,765

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

As the new ethnicity classification was introduced in 2001/02, the figures from 2001/02 are not directly comparable with the figures up to 2000/01.

Higher Education: Sunderland

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of people in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area received a degree qualification in each year since 1997. [125297]

Bill Rammell: The latest available data on the number of graduates from Houghton and Washington, East constituency and Sunderland local authority for the academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06 are given in the following table.

Number of first degree graduates[1] from Houghton and Washington, East constituency and Sunderland local authority English institutions—academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

Academic year	*Houghton and Washington, East constituency*	*Sunderland local authority*
1997/98	280	925
1998/99	265	975
1999/2000	255	865
2000/01	230	815
2001/02	240	825
2002/03	255	925
2003/04	285	935
2004/05	285	1,005
2005/06	329	1,060

[1] Excludes graduates from dormant modes of study.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Information on the percentage of people in Houghton and Washington, East constituency and Sunderland local authority who receive a degree qualification is not collated centrally.

However, the percentage of working age adults educated to NVQ level 4 and above can be found from the Annual Population Survey.

This shows that in 2005, the percentage of working age adults from Houghton and Washington, East constituency with NVQ4 and above qualifications is 15.7 per cent., the figure for Sunderland local authority is 16.6 per cent., and the comparable figure for England is 26.2 per cent.

Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many cars run by his Department were manufactured *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad. [104821]

Mr. Dhanda: No cars belonging to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) were manufactured in the UK. All cars were manufactured abroad.

School Meals

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) with which partnership the School Food Trust is working on its plans for regional training kitchens for the school food workforce; how many such kitchens there will be; and by what date it is planned that the kitchens will be operational; [125819]

(2) what discussions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the School Food Trust have had with private sector

companies on the provision and equipment of the proposed regional training kitchens. [125821]

Mr. Dhanda: The School Food Trust (SFT) has been asked by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) to lead on the establishment of regional training centres in recognition of the fact that the full range of training offered is likely to be broader than cooking skills. The SFT's aim is to establish the first of these in spring 2007 with a national network operational by the end of March 2008.

A target for the number of RTCs has not been set. The final number will depend upon the number and quality of bids, and local needs.

The SFT has been working with partners to develop criteria against which to judge applications to become regional training centres. These partners include school cooks, head teachers, local authorities, private sector catering providers, FE colleges, the Learning and Skills Council, People 1st, the Training and Development Agency, the Food Standards Agency, Department of Health and DfES. Two stakeholder events were held in Birmingham in January.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which baseline year he has selected by which to judge the School Food Trust's performance against its targets of increasing school meal uptake by four percentage points by March 2008 and 10 percentage points by autumn 2009; and how many school meals were consumed in that year. [125820]

Mr. Dhanda: The School Food Trust's performance will be judged against the baseline information on school meals take-up set out in the report on the School Food Trust's first annual survey of take-up of school meals in England for the 2005/06 year. The School Food Trust's survey collected information on the percentage take-up of school meals in primary and secondary schools rather than on the number of school meals that were consumed. The Department did not collect information on the number of school meals that were consumed in 2005/06.

Schools: Greenwich

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much he estimates will be spent in the London Borough of Greenwich from the Building Schools for the Future budget on *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools. [126688]

Jim Knight: Greenwich's wave 1 Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project has been allocated capital funding of £169 million (including ICT) on the basis of the outline business case approved in January 2005. This level of funding will be confirmed only when a final business case for the project is approved which is scheduled to happen later this year. The authority has a further project in wave 5 of BSF. The funding allocation for this project has yet to be agreed.

Primary schools are not covered by BSF, but we are taking a similarly transformational approach to capital investment for the primary sector. The Primary Capital Programme aims to rebuild, remodel or refurbish at least half of all primary schools over the next 15 years. The programme will be rolled out nationally from 2009-10 when all local authorities, including Greenwich, will benefit from a share of £500 million of additional investment. This will be allocated by means of a simple, open formula—still to be determined. Subject to future Government spending decisions, we anticipate that the additional investment will continue at that level throughout the life of the programme.

Science: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which properties of *(a)* light and *(b)* sound are expected to be studied under the proposed key stage 3 science programme of study. [126012]

Bill Rammell: Teachers will use the National Curriculum planning guidance, together with their knowledge of pupils' prior attainment and the programmes of study for key stages 2 and 4, to ensure appropriate progression, while taking full advantage of the flexibility offered by the new key stage 3 programme of study. Light and sound are ways in which energy is transferred from one place to another and as such are placed within "Energy, electricity and forces". To signal that the properties and behaviour of light and sound are still a significant component of the key stage 3 programme of study, they are specifically mentioned in the explanatory notes accompanying the range and content section.

Special Educational Needs: East Yorkshire

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applicants there were per place for each special needs school in East Yorkshire in September of each year since 2000. [126709]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Trade Union Funding

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding his Department has allocated to individual trade unions in the last three years. [114070]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not provided any direct funding to individual trade unions in the last three years. However, in common with other Departments and agencies, the Department does provide agreed time off and facilities for trade union representatives to take part in union duties, activities and training.

Written Questions

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he will answer the question tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 28 February 2006, reference 125275,

on the collaborative restart of the Northfields Technology College with Houghton Regis Middle School. [127359]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply issued on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2245W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what aggregate reduction in outstanding debt to the Child Support Agency he expects to achieve by agreed write off and revaluation of interim maintenance assessments; [113560]

(2) what process he plans to put in place and what formula he proposes to use to facilitate the revaluation of interim maintenance assessment debt proposed in the White Paper "A new system of child maintenance"; [113561]

(3) whether the revaluation of interim maintenance assessments proposed in the White Paper "A new system of child maintenance" will be subject to agreement by the parent with care. [113568]

Mr. Plaskitt: Given the discretionary nature of the negotiated settlements, we cannot predict the extent to which they will be used and are unable to estimate the impact on debt.

In relation to revaluation of interim maintenance assessments, I refer the hon. Member to the figures given in paragraph 5.42 of the Government's White Paper "A new system of child maintenance".

Subject to consultation, the proposed revaluation of interim maintenance assessments would be based on analysis of information held by the agency on converting interim maintenance assessments to full maintenance assessments. Conversion of punitive interim maintenance assessments almost invariably results in lower rate full maintenance assessments. The factor that we would use to revalue interim maintenance assessments would reflect the average effect of conversion and would be determined closer to the time of the revaluation.

In relation to making the revaluation subject to parent with care agreement', we would consider the detail of the process in the light of views received from the White Paper consultation.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken was to progress clerical Child Support Agency cases to a stage where a first payment was made in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [122995]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Cregan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which public affairs firms have been given contracts by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies sponsored by his Department in the last five years; and what the purpose was of each contract. [118446]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Department uses private sector contractors to deliver public relations and promotional work in support of communications campaigns on benefits, pensions and other departmental delivery areas. These contractors may include public affairs advice and strategy as part of their offer to private sector and other organisations but the Department does not use these services.

Information on public bodies for which the Department is responsible is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Websites

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job searches the Jobcentre Plus website handled in each of the last 24 months. [118786]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table:

	Number of job searches
2005	
February	14,751,867
March	14,839,770
April	18,613,754
May	14,086,405
June	15,332,539
July	20,600,881
August	16,037,495
September	16,654,929
October	21,749,782
November	17,178,648
December	12,838,421
2006	
January	17,320,754
February	19,393,246
March	20,112,175
April	22,873,176
May	18,024,967
June	18,716,479
July	25,800,935
August	20,129,962
September	26,171,245
October	20,033,594
November	19,396,998
December	16,862,115
2007	
January	24,281,710

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much it has cost to administer the Jobcentre Plus website in each of the last five years. [118788]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Jobcentre Plus website was launched in March 2002. The cost of administering the site in each of the last four financial years is in the following table.

The number of visits made to the website each year has increased from 20.7 million in 2003 to 75.6 million in 2006.

	Cost (£)
2002-03	85,000
2003-04	95,000
2004-05	238,700
2005-06	265,200

Departments: Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on works of art in each year since 1997. [120452]

Mrs. McGuire: The art works in the Department for Work and Pensions are on loan from and therefore owned by the Government Art Collection.

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff worked in dedicated complaints units in his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many there have been in 2006-07 to date. [121670]

Mrs. McGuire: Complaint handling forms an integral part of many of the job roles in all parts of the organisation, particularly those in customer facing or correspondence teams.

The Child Support Agency is the only part of Department for Work and Pensions with a dedicated complaints unit. Information for the Child Support Agency is not available prior to 2005. As at January 2005 the Child Support Agency had 930 staff either directly in teams handling complaints or teams handling correspondence from hon. Members, stakeholder groups or clients who may have earlier made a complaint. As at December 2006, the number employed on such duties was 892.

Freud Report

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to report the findings and recommendations of the Freud Report. [121458]

Mr. Jim Murphy: David Freud published his report on 5 March. We will consider the report's recommendations very carefully and respond to them in due course.

Full Employment Agency: ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of the Information and Communication Technology systems for the new Full Employment Agency in Scotland. [120310]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Full Employment Agency is a matter which we are discussing with the Scottish Executive. No estimate has been made by the Department for Work and Pensions of the cost of the Information and Communication Technology systems for the proposed Agency at this stage.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many housing benefit claims were subject to each rate of non-dependant deduction in 2004-05; how many claimants at each rate lived in *(a)* council housing, *(b)* registered social landlord housing and *(c)* the private rented sector; and what percentage of total housing benefit claims each group represents. [108216]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information on non-dependants is only available from the annual 1 per cent. sample, the latest being at May 2004. At present it is not possible to use the May 2004 data as an anomaly has been identified which requires further investigation before they can be used with confidence. The most recent information, as at May 2003, is in the following tables.

All housing benefit recipients

	Caseload	Percentage[2]
Total with non-dependants	[3]270,000	7.1
Of which:		
Attracting deductions for non-dependants	128,000	3.4
Non-dependants:		
Total	[3]304,000	8.0
Attracting deductions	136,000	3.6
Status of non-dependants:		
In remunerative work	59,000	1.5
Of which:		
Gross income < £92	6,000	0.2
Gross income £92-£136.99	8,000	0.2
Gross income £137-£176.99	12,000	0.3
Gross income £177-£234.99	10,000	0.3
Gross income £235-£292.99	6,000	0.2
Gross income £293 and over	16,000	0.4
Not receiving income support (IS)/income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)) nor working	28,000	0.7
Receiving IS/JSA(IB), not in work	49,000	1.3
On Government training allowance, not in work	[4]—	[4]—
Unknown	[4]—	[4]—

Local authority tenants

	Caseload	Percentage[2]
Total with non-dependants	[3]158,000	4.2
Of which:		
Attracting deductions for non-dependants	77,000	2.0
Non-dependants:		
Total	[3]176,000	4.6
Attracting deductions	81,000	2.1
Status of non-dependants:		
In remunerative work	33,000	0.9
Of which:		
Gross income <£92	4,000	0.1
Gross income £92-£136.99	4,000	0.1
Gross income £137-£176.99	6,000	0.2
Gross income £177-£234.99	6,000	0.2
Gross income £235-£292.99	4,000	0.1
Gross income £293 and over	8,000	0.2

Local authority tenants

	Caseload	Percentage[1]
Not receiving IS/JSA(IB) nor working	18,000	0.5
Receiving IS/JSA(IB), not in work	31,000	0.8
On Government training allowance, not in work	[4]	[4]
Unknown	[4]	[4]

Registered social landlord tenants

	Caseload	Percentage[1]
Total with non-dependants	[2]80,000	2.1
Of which:		
Attracting deductions for non-dependants	36,000	1.0
Non-dependants:		
Total	[3]92,000	2.4
Attracting deductions	39,000	1.0
Status of non-dependants:		
In remunerative work	19,000	0.5
Of which:		
Gross income <£92	*1,000	[4]
Gross income £92-£136.99	3,000	0.1
Gross income £137-£176.99	4,000	0.1
Gross income £177-£234.99	3,000	0.1
Gross income £235-£292.99	*1,000	[4]
Gross income £293 and over	6,000	0.1
Not receiving IS/JSA(IB) nor working	6,000	0.2
Receiving IS/JSA(IB), not in work	14,000	0.4
On Government training allowance, not in work	[4]	[4]
Unknown	[4]	[4]

Private tenants

	Caseload	Percentage[1]
Total with non-dependants	[2]32,000	0.9
Of which:		
Attracting deductions for non-dependants	15,000	0.4
Non-dependants:		
Total	[3]36,000	0.9
Attracting deductions	16,000	0.4
Status of non-dependants:		
In remunerative work	7,000	0.2
Of which:		
Gross income <£92	*1,000	[4]
Gross income £92-£136.99	*1,000	[4]
Gross income £137-£176.99	*2,000	[4]
Gross income £177-£234.99	*1,000	[4]
Gross income £235-£292.99	*1,000	[4]
Gross income £293 and over	*2,000	0.1
Not receiving IS/JSA(IB) nor working	4,000	0.1
Receiving IS/JSA(IB), not in work	4,000	0.1
On Government training allowance, not in work	[4]	[4]
Unknown	[4]	[4]

[1] Figures are given as a percentage of the total HB caseload which is 3,796,000 at May 2003.
[2] This figure is the number of housing benefit recipients with at least one non-dependant.
[3] This figure is the total number of non-dependants.
[4] Nil or negligible.
Notes:
1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. The caseloads are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Figures under 2,500 marked "*" are subject to a high degree of sampling variation and should be used only as a guide to the situation.
Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent sample, taken in May 2003.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has commissioned into the operation of non-dependant deductions from housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [118812]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department last commissioned research into non-dependant deductions in the mid 1990s.

We have no plans to commission further research into the operation of non-dependant deductions from housing benefit, but we will keep them under review.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of housing benefit that was *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid due to the incorrect application of non-dependant deductions in the latest period for which figures are available. [118814]

Mr. Plaskitt: The housing benefit review survey estimates that in 2005-06 the proportion of housing benefit expenditure overpaid due to incorrect or missing non-dependant deductions was 0.3 per cent. The equivalent figure for underpaid housing benefit expenditure was 0.1 per cent.

The underpayment estimate only covers recipients who were getting less than they were entitled to, and does not include those who were entitled to benefits but did not apply.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many tenants are claiming local housing allowance in each of the 18 pathfinder areas; and if he will make a statement. [125029]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table:

Number of tenants claiming local housing allowance in Pathfinder areas, February 2006

Pathfinder	Local housing allowance caseload
Original Pathfinders	
Blackpool	8,600
Brighton and Hove	8,900
Conwy	2,400
Coventry	4,900
Edinburgh	6,300

Leeds	6,800
Lewisham	4,600
North East Lincolnshire	4,700
Teignbridge	2,100
Second Wave Group	
Argyll and Bute	1,100
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,600
Guildford	700
Norwich	1,200
Pembrokeshire	1,800
Salford	2,000
South Norfolk	800
St. Helens	2,000
Wandsworth	3,100
18 Pathfinders total	66,600

Notes:
1. These are the latest available validated data.
2. The reported figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. The reported figures include transitionally protected cases.
4. The second wave group areas are not subject to evaluation but are assessing operational readiness.

Source:
DWP Pathfinder administrative data, February 2006.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average housing benefit payment for a *(a)* single pensioner, *(b)* married pensioner, *(c)* single person under pensionable age, *(d)* married couple under pensionable age and *(e)* married couple with children was in (i) 1997 and (ii) at the latest available date. [127209]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Average weekly amounts of housing benefit: (£ per week)

As at May each year:	*Those aged 60 or over with no partner*	*Those aged 60 or over with a partner*	*Those aged under 60 with no partner*	*Those aged under 60 with a partner*	*Those with a partner and children*
1997	36.94	34.44	47.81	46.21	47.66
2003	49.09	48.58	60.25	63.95	70.07

Notes:
1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. Housing benefit cases exclude extended payment cases.
3. Average amounts are shown to the nearest penny.
4. Pensioner figures refer to cases where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 or over.
5. Figures for those under 60 refer to cases where both claimant and partner are under 60.

Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system, annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2003.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents had claimed income support for *(a)* up to three months, *(b)* between three and six months, *(c)* between six and 12 months, *(d)* between one and two years, *(e)* between two years and three years and *(f)* more than three years in each quarter since 1992. [121436]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information is not available prior to 1999. The available information is in the following table.

Income Support lone-parent claimants in Great Britain by duration of claim: each quarter August 1999 to May 2006

Date	*Up to 3 months*	*3-6 months*	*6-12 months*	*1-2 years*	*2-3 years*	*3 years and over*
August 1999	67,080	61,050	103,120	147,540	103,240	458,670
November 1999	60,060	60,960	99,530	148,040	105,850	451,460
February 2000	52,130	57,620	102,570	149,860	107,470	449,430
May 2000	56,700	49,670	100,730	152,420	106,950	448,300
August 2000	59,880	54,520	91,360	153,250	107,450	449,060
November 2000	55,910	54,630	88,610	148,180	108,070	445,690
February 2001	52,220	55,320	94,670	144,300	109,800	447,150
May 2001	52,640	49,330	94,940	141,660	111,290	445,680
August 2001	54,790	50,670	90,210	140,660	111,850	447,190
November 2001	47,920	49,440	84,830	138,160	108,590	444,770
February 2002	46,010	47,360	86,750	138,900	105,680	447,420
May 2002	51,650	43,810	83,620	135,720	103,930	447,210
August 2002	53,630	49,650	79,550	133,340	104,080	449,860
November 2002	48,980	49,050	80,190	125,940	101,910	445,210
February 2003	40,550	48,520	85,090	123,050	102,080	444,470
May 2003	56,920	39,890	85,280	124,760	100,780	445,680
August 2003	49,570	53,790	77,240	125,800	98,330	446,720
November 2003	44,250	44,760	81,190	125,130	93,940	442,460
February 2004	45,840	42,800	84,460	123,210	92,080	441,860
May 2004	44,320	44,270	76,370	126,180	92,450	439,660
August 2004	46,430	42,750	75,670	122,800	92,550	437,890
November 2004	44,260	42,340	72,990	116,080	91,650	429,190
February 2005	45,010	42,510	73,090	116,720	89,900	425,910

Income Support lone-parent claimants in Great Britain by duration of claim: each quarter August 1999 to May 2006

Date	Up to 3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	1-2 years	2-3 years	3 years and over
May 2005	45,230	42,990	73,580	111,730	90,910	424,870
August 2005	49,280	43,010	74,680	110,190	88,180	424,030
November 2005	47,010	45,240	73,360	109,350	84,090	419,520
February 2006	44,170	45,990	76,550	109,690	84,690	416,000
May 2006	44,210	42,470	79,750	110,220	81,560	416,660
August 2006	51,550	43,000	77,690	114,290	81,020	415,630

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures do not include lone -parents whose primary entitlement to benefit is for other reasons, for example disability
Source:
100 per cent DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of each stage of the roll out of the 0800 number for Jobcentre Plus. [118792]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 13 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the estimated cost of each stage of the roll out of the 0800 number for Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The new 0800 telephone number is only part of a wider package of measures being delivered to improve the process for new and repeat claims to income support, jobseekers allowance and incapacity benefit. The 0800 feature will give the majority of our customers the facility to make a benefit claim in a single call which will be free from landlines.

The new national 0800 number for people making new benefit claims is being rolled out for a one off cost of £1.1m excluding VAT. I cannot provide the cost of running the new service as the telephone charges are the subject of commercial negotiations that we have not yet concluded.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed jobseeker's allowance in Chorley constituency in each of the last 10 years. [125325]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table:

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in the Chorley parliamentary constituency, each January 1997 to 2007

	Number
1997	2,162
1998	1,532
1999	1,448
2000	1,439
2001	1,169
2002	1,122
2003	1,111
2004	900
2005	839
2006	1,009
2007	1,142

Notes:
1. Figures are unrounded.
2. Figures include clerically held cases.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former farmers claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Chorley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [125326]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the resident working age population in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex is in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [125455]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at January 2007, 2.9 per cent. of the working-age population of Eastbourne were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. At the same date, 2.2 per cent. of the working-age population of East Sussex were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

National Insurance: Jobcentres

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people from *(a)* Aylesbury constituency, *(b)* Aylesbury Vale District and *(c)* Buckinghamshire have been interviewed by Jobcentre Plus in connection with an application for a national insurance number in each of the last five years. [123408]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

The available information is that from 1 January 2006 to 22 February 2007, 5,117 applications from Buckinghamshire for national insurance numbers were received at the Isle of Wight Central Control Unit for processing following an interview.

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances participants of the New Deal for Young People may extend their period on Gateway beyond 10 months. [121598]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The New Deal for Young People (NDYP) Gateway period is designed to last for a maximum of four months. People aged 18-24 who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months join the Gateway and receive intensive job search support to improve their job prospects. If an NDYP participant has not found work at the end of the Gateway period, they are referred to one of the NDYP Options. In exceptional circumstances, for example, a family bereavement, a short-term illness, or an option becoming unexpectedly unavailable, the Gateway period can be extended.

Occupational Pensions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Occupational Pension Schemes (Minimum Funding Requirement and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125620]

James Purnell: The Occupational Pension Schemes (Minimum Funding Requirement and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 were accompanied by a regulatory impact assessment (RIA), a copy of which is available in the Library. The RIA included an assessment of the impact of the regulations on business, although this will have been affected by the subsequent replacement of the minimum funding requirement by new scheme funding requirements from December 2005. The cost to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA) of implementing the regulations, if any, is not separately identifiable.

Older Workers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of workers aged 60 and over. [126393]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are an estimated 2,052,000 people in work aged 60 or over in Great Britain, 16.8 per cent. of the population in the age group.

Note:

These estimates are not based on the same total population estimates as headline ONS estimates for employment in the same period, but this is unlikely to have much effect on the aforementioned figures.

Source:

Labour Force Survey, Q4 2006. The Labour Force Survey is a survey of the population of private households, student halls of residence and NHS accommodation.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of incapacity benefit moving into work in the Pathways to Work pilot areas. [102264]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There have been 24,730 individuals recorded as having entered work through Pathways to Work.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Data are to the end of March 2006. This is because the Jobcentre Plus Job Entry Targets (JET) measure was terminated in March 2006 and replaced by a new Job Outcome Targets (JOT) measure. We need to move to capturing job outcomes using this measure; however, JOT data are taken from HMRC and therefore there is a longer delay in using this information.

3. The statistics quoted in this response are taken from the Pathways to Work Evaluation Database.

4. It would not be appropriate to infer any kind of job entry rate from the data supplied in this response as it would be an underestimate of the true underlying job entry rate due to the fact that more recent cases will have had less time to find a job.

5. Job entry figures include all recorded job entries plus Return to Work Credit (RTWC) awards for which no job entry is yet recorded. (By definition, a RTWC award must indicate that a job entry has occurred). Figures for job entries include New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) job starts.

6. This answer is based on the number of individuals who have entered Pathways and then subsequently found a job. The total number of Pathways job entries is higher as an individual can have multiple spells on Pathways.

Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the costs of uprating the basic state pension on the basis of average earnings in each year from 2008-09 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [121809]

James Purnell: Under our reforms, more people will be receiving state pensions based on their national insurance records, and there will be a more generous basic state pension due to the restoration of the earnings link. This provides a solid foundation for private saving. The guarantee credit will continue to provide a safety net and reforms to the savings credit will reduce the spread of means testing and support the savings incentives that are an integral part of the reform package.

The following table contains the projected additional cost of earnings-uprating the basic state pension from 2008 relative to current system spending.

Table 1: Cost of earnings uprating the basic state pension, net of income related benefits

£ billion, 2006-07 prices

	Cost of uprating from 2008
2008-09	0.4
2009-10	0.9
2010-11	1.5
2011-12	2.1
2012-13	2.7
2013-14	3.4
2014-15	4.0
2015-16	4.7

Notes:
1. The analysis is based on the reform proposals presented in the Pensions Bill rather than the White Paper. Some methodological improvements were made to the projections of basic state pension expenditure and revised data has been used between publication of the White Paper and the introduction of the Pensions Bill.
2. Net costs include savings seen from reduced expenditure on other income related benefits (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit). They do not include any change in income tax revenue or national insurance. Annex A of the Pensions Bill RIA shows the cost of earnings uprating the BSP on a gross basis.
3. Net costs assume the pension credit standard minimum guarantee is uprated by earnings from 2008.
4. Figures do not include the effect of any other reform measures.
5. Costs or savings presented in the table are based on long-term projections of United Kingdom benefit spend, consistent with the pre-Budget report 2006.
6. Figures exclude the effect of personal accounts.

Pensions: Public Sector

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to set up an independent review on public sector pensions. [126731]

James Purnell: None.

Pensions: Uprating

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost has been of *(a)* stationery, *(b)* postage and packaging and (c) staff hours associated with reissuing the pensions uprating notifications. [125483]

James Purnell: The information to ascertain the costs associated with this exercise is not yet available.

Poverty: Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* children in Leicester have been lifted out of poverty since 199[illegible] [125634]

James Purnell: Specific information regarding low income for Great Britain is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2004/05", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below a regional level. Therefore, estimates for Leicester are not available.

Social Security Benefits Agency: Standards

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken by the Benefits Agency to process claims was in the last period for which figures are available. [124464]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Benefits Agency was an Executive Agency of the Department of Social Security (DSS). Both organisations ceased to exist in June 2001 when the Department for Work and Pensions was formed from DSS, the Employment Service and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment; Jobcentre Plus was formed from the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service. Since 2001, further changes in benefit delivery have been made with the formation of the Pension Service and the disability and carers service.

The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Glenrothes

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Glenrothes were in receipt of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* income support in 1997; and how many were in receipt of income support in each of the last five years. [122619]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information for the Glenrothes parliamentary constituency is not available prior to May 2005. The available information is in the following table.

Income support claimants in the Glenrothes parliamentary constituency

At August each year	*Number*
2005	4,440
2006	4,490

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest10.
2. Figures prior to 2005 are not available due to constituency changes in Scotland.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the UK were entitled to a state pension in *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2006. [126391]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

State pension recipients in GB

	Number
September 1992	9,479,400
September 1997	9,914,700
September 2005	10,568,700
March 2006	10,583,400

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures for September 2006 are not yet available so figures for March 2006 have been provided.

Sources:
1. DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. extract of the PSCS. Sample data is subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall case load from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. The figure for 1992 is taken from the Social Security Statistics 1993 publication and is from a 10 per cent. sample and has not been adjusted.

Unemployment: Foreign Workers

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of A2 and A8 migration on *(a)* unemployment and *(b)* measures to tackle unemployment in the UK. [122313]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In February 2006, DWP published a working paper on the impact of free movement of workers from Central and Eastern Europe on the UK labour market; copies have been placed in the Library. The paper found that there has been no discernible statistical effect of A8 migration on claimant unemployment.

A8 migrants can only usually access benefits once they have been working and registered with the Worker Registration Scheme for at least 12 months. A8 migrants not in receipt of benefit are unable to access Jobcentre Plus schemes. Similarly, A2 migrants cannot generally access the benefit system without having completed 12 months legal work.

We are continuing to monitor the impact of accession country migration on the UK labour market.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if *(a)* he and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus will take steps to provide further benefit support and advice for A2 and A8 nationals who become unemployed. [122288]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Income related benefits are only paid to people who have a right to reside and are habitually resident in the UK. Most A8 and A2 nationals can only claim in work benefits while they are working as either a registered worker in the case of an A8 national, or an authorised worker in the case of an A2 national.

Once they have completed 12 months continuous employment as a registered or authorised worker A8 and A2 nationals who remain in the labour market have the same rights to access Jobcentre Plus services including benefit support and advice, as other EEA and UK nationals. We have no plans to extend this support.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the level of winter fuel payments in relation to the cost of energy; and if he will make a statement. [127355]

James Purnell: The winter fuel payment is a significant contribution to winter fuel bills which account for around 60 per cent. of the year's total fuel bill. It has risen from £20 to £200 from winter 2000-01 and to £300 for people aged 80 or over from winter 2003-04. These increases have been at a significantly higher rate than inflation. Fuel prices do fluctuate and although fuel prices have risen since 2003, this follows a period of no change between 1997 to 2003. Companies are now starting to announce price reductions in their retail tariffs to domestic customers following recent falls in wholesale gas prices.

Winter Fuel Payments: North East Region

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland City Council area received winter fuel payments in each of the last five years. [125298]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table. Information on households receiving a winter fuel payment is available only by constituency and local authority from winter 2002-03. Figures for winter 2006-07 are not yet available but we expect the numbers to be similar to those for winter 2005-06.

	Household payments made	
	Houghton and Washington, East constituency	*Sunderland local authority*
2002-03	12,090	40,470
2003-04	12,230	40,660
2004-05	12,450	41,220
2005-06	12,570	41,580

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. Any residence found to have four or more occupants aged 60 and over is not included in the household figures as it is assumed to be a care home.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Deborah Mattinson

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much Deborah Mattinson was paid for her presentation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of the policy review seminar on 22 January 2007. [125954]

Mr. McFadden: A range of organisations and individuals have made submissions and presentations to the policy review process. Deborah Mattinson was not paid for her presentation.

TREASURY

Child Care Tax Credits: Eltham

Clive Efford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Eltham have received child care credits since their introduction. [126682]

Dawn Primarolo: The average number of families in each constituency benefiting from the child care element of Working Tax Credit in 2004-05 are available in the HMRC statistical publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Awards 2004-05. Geographical analyses", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2005-06 will be published in May 2007.

No estimates are available for 2003-04, as the only data available are for a sample of cases. Any estimates would be unreliable at constituency level.

Childbirth

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many births there were in the UK in each year since 1995. [126143]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 March 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many births there were in the UK in each year since 1995. (126143)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2005, The table below shows the number of live births in the UK each year between 1995 and 2005.

Live births, United Kingdom, 1995 to 2005

	Number of live births
1995	731,882
1996	733,163
1997	726,622
1998	716,888
1999	699,976
2000	679,029
2001	669,123
2002	668,777
2003	695,549
2004	715,996
2005	722,549

In compiling total live births for the UK, figures for live births in England and Wales relate to the number occurring in each calendar year, while for Scotland and Northern Ireland figures relate to the number of live births registered in each calendar year.

Deborah Mattinson

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his role was in selecting Deborah Mattinson to make a presentation as part of the policy review seminar on 22 January. [125993]

John Healey: A range of organisations and individuals have made submissions and presentations to the policy review process.

Departments: Official Engagements

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list his official engagements from 1 January to 28 February 2007. [125953]

John Healey: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Occupancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median number of (i) children and (ii) adults was in households where the household reference person was aged (A) 18 to 24, (B) 25 to 29, (C) 30 to 39, (D) 40 to 49, (E) 50 to 59, (F) 60 to 69 and (G) 70 and over in (1) 1985, (2) 1995 and (3) 2005; [126071]

(2) what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median number of (i) children and (ii) adults was in households where the household reference person was aged (A) 18 to 24, (B) 25 to 29, (C) 30 to 39, (D) 40 to 49, (E) 50 to 59, (F) 60 to 69 and (G) 70 and over and where the household reference person reported their nationality as being from one of the 12 countries which acceded to the EU since 2004. [126072]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 March 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking what the (a) mean and (b) median number of (i) children and (ii) adults in households where the household reference person (HRP) was aged (A) 18 to 24, (B) 25 to 29, (C) 30 to 39, (D) 40 to 49, (E) 50 to 59, (F) 60 to 69 and (G) 70 and over in (1) 1985, (2) 1995 and (3) 2005, and also your question asking for similar information for where the household reference person reported their nationality as being one of the 12 countries which acceded to the EU since 2004. (126071 and 126072)

The information requested on numbers of children and adults, separately, in each household, by the age of the household reference person is readily available for the year 2005, but not for 1995 and 1985. Figures for those earlier years could only be provided at disproportionate cost. To provide reliable information on accession countries, figures have been combined across the four quarters in which household information was collected in the Labour Force Survey in the period Autumn 2004 to Spring 2006. The figures are provided in the two tables below.

Mean household size by age group of household reference person (HRP) split by adults and dependent children[1], United Kingdom, 2005 and accession countries[2]

	All households			*HRP has accession[2] nationality*		
Age group of HRP	*All*	*Adults*	*Children[1]*	*All*	*Adults*	*Children[1]*
18 to 24	2.4	2.0	0.5	2.9	2.8	0.1
25 to 29	2.4	1.8	0.6	3.1	2.8	0.4
30 to 39	2.9	1.8	1.1	3.3	2.5	0.8
40 to 49	3.0	2.0	1.0	—	—	—
50 to 59	2.4	2.1	0.3	—	—	—
60 to 69	1.9	1.8	0.0	—	—	—
70 and over	1.5	1.5	0.0	—	—	—
40 to 59	2.7	2.1	0.7	3.2	2.6	0.6
All ages 18 and over	2.4	1.8	0.5	3.0	2.6	0.4

'—' Sample number below 100

[1] A dependent child is aged under 16, or 16 to 18 and in full-time education.

[2] Accession countries since 2004 are Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia (1 May 2004) and Bulgaria and Romania (1 January 2007).

Note:
Numbers may not add due to rounding

Source:
All households LFS 2005 Household data set Spring and Autumn quarters. Accession countries, LFS Autumn 2004, Spring and Autumn 2005 and Spring 2006 Household data sets. All figures are population weighted.

Median numbers of people in households by age group of household reference person (HRP) adults and dependent children[1], United Kingdom, 2005 and accession countries[2]

	All households			HRP has accession[2] nationality		
Age group of HRP	All	Adults	Children[1]	All	Adults	Children[1]
18 to 24	2	2	0	3	3	0
25 to 29	2	2	0	3	2	0
30 to 39	3	2	1	3	2	0
40 to 49	3	2	1	—	—	—
50 to 59	2	2	0	—	—	—
60 to 69	2	2	0	—	—	—
70 and over	1	1	0	—	—	—
40 to 59	3	2	0	3	2	0
All ages 18 and over	2	2	0	3	2	0

'—' Sample number below 100

[1] A dependent child is aged under 16, or 16 to 18 and in full-time education.

[2] Accession countries since 2004 are Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia (1 May 2004) and Bulgaria and Romania (1 January 2007).

Source:
All households LFS 2005 Household data set Spring and Autumn quarters. Accession countries, LFS Autumn 2004, Spring and Autumn 2005 and Spring 2006 Household data sets. All figures are population weighted.

Income Tax and National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in *(a)* income tax and *(b)* national insurance contributions by (i) men and (ii) women aged (A) under 25, (B) 25 to 29, (C) 30 to 34, (D) 35 to 39, (E) 40 to 44, (F) 45 to 49, (G) 50 to 54, (H) 55 to 59, (I) 60 to 64, (J) 65 to 69, (K) 70 to 74, (L) 75 to 79 and (M) over 79 in the latest year for which information is available. [126060]

Dawn Primarolo: The available estimates of the distribution of income tax liabilities can be found in table 3.2 "Distribution of median and mean income tax by age range and gender, 2004-05" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#32

Estimates of the distribution of national insurance contributions by age range and gender for 2004-05 are provided in the following table.

	Male		Female	
Age range	Numbers paying NICs (000)	Mean NICs (£)	Numbers paying NICs (000)	Mean NICs (£)
Under 20	372	552	258	419
20 to 24	1,180	930	970	760
25 to 29	1,500	1,380	1,240	1,240
30 to 34	1,820	1,600	1,390	1,180
35 to 39	2,050	1,750	1,500	1,100
40 to 44	2,050	1,670	1,590	1,050
45 to 49	1,810	1,690	1,450	1,080
50 to 54	1,610	1,610	1,310	1,040
55-59[1]	1,500	1,480	1,530	737
60 to 64[2]	985	1,140	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—
All ranges	14,870	1,500	11 ,250	1,010

[1] Includes females that turned 60 at the end of the financial year but paid NICs as 59-year-olds for some proportion of the year.

[2] Includes males that turned 65 at the end of the financial year but paid NICs as 64-year-olds for some proportion of the year.

Notes:
1. This table is based on age at the end of the financial year. Individuals cease paying NICs when they reach state retirement age; this is 60 for females and 65 for males.
2. Figures are rounded so totals will not necessarily sum to their components.
3. Figures are UK primary accruals for 2004-05 net of rebates. They include Class 1 net, Class 2, Class 3 and Class 4 NICs.
4. The figures are estimated using:
Annual survey of hours and earnings for 2004-05 for the Class 1 age distribution.
Survey of personal incomes for 2003-04, uprated with earnings for 2004-05, for the self-employed age distribution.
DWP contributions and qualifying years tables for 2002-03 for the Class 3 age distribution.

Minimum Wage: Carers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions took place between his Department and the Department for Work and Pensions on the carer's allowance earnings threshold prior to the increase in the minimum wage to £5.35 in October 2006. [126754]

Dawn Primarolo: HMT and DWP officials discuss a number of issues relating to the benefit system on a regular basis.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the titles were of each of the policy papers prepared by the Council of Economic Advisers in the last six months. [125940]

John Healey: As set out in the Treasury press notice of 28 June 2006, the Council of Economic Advisers is made up of individual policy experts who will bring their specialist advice to work alongside individual Treasury teams on the Government's key policy priorities.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his long-term plans are for the Council of Economic Advisers; and if he will make a statement. [125941]

John Healey: The terms of reference for the Council of Economic Advisers were set out in the Treasury Press Notice of 4 August 1997.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/1997/press_99_97.cfm

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date his Council of Economic Advisers last met in full; and how many times it met in full in the last 12 months. [125939]

John Healey: Members of the Council of Economic advisers meet regularly during the course of their work.

National Insurance Contributions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the additional income to the National Insurance Fund which would be raised by removing the upper earnings limit and levying a standard percentage on all incomes above that limit. [126235]

Dawn Primarolo: Removing the upper earnings limit and levying the main percentage rate on all incomes above that limit would result in an additional estimated income to the National Insurance Fund of £6.6 billion in 2006-07.

This estimate is consistent with PBR 2006 assumptions.

National Insurance Contributions: Pensions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were sent letters from HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006 inviting them to top up their national insurance (NI) contributions to ensure that they are entitled to the basic state pension; what estimate he has made of the number of these letters which were incorrectly sent to people who had paid their full NI contributions; how many payments HM Revenue and Customs has received from people who had received such incorrect notices; how much was received; how many people have been notified that the letters were incorrect; how many refunds have been made; what circumstances led to the error; and what steps his Department is taking to rectify the error. [125933]

Dawn Primarolo: The following numbers of letters were sent to people to advise them that they had a gap in their national insurance contributions record:

(a) 3.7 million letters were issued in 2004 for the 2002-03 tax year,

(b) 3.2 million letters were issued in 2005 for the 2003-04 tax year

(c) 4.7 million letters were issued in 2006 for the 2004-05 tax year.

It is not possible to provide the information on the following as it is not held:

how many letters were incorrectly sent,

how many payments and what total amount of money HMRC has received from people who had received such notices,

how many people were notified the letters were incorrect,

how many refunds made.

The reasons for the delay in processing 2004-05 Employers' Annual Returns are well documented and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 346W. There has been no repeat of the processing delays experienced for 2005-06 tax year.

PAYE

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people *(a)* qualified for and *(b)* received the £250 credit for filing PAYE returns electronically in each year since its introduction. [127289]

Dawn Primarolo: The online filing incentive is paid to small employers who voluntarily submit their Employer Annual Return online.

Payments of incentives were made to 900,000 small employers in 2005-06 (in respect of Annual Returns for 2004-05). This represents 51 per cent. of the small employer population registered for PAYE in the qualifying period.

Payments of incentives were made to 1.18 million small employers in 2006-07 (in respect of Annual Returns for 2005-06). This represents 67 per cent. of the small employer population registered for PAYE in the qualifying period.

Personal Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will update the information provided in *(a)* Table 50 and *(b)* Table 51 of Report No. 1 (the Initial Report on the Standing Reference) of the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth for the years 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005. [127315]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC publish a number of National Statistics on the distribution of wealth. These are available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal_wealth/menu.htm

Updating the tables from the 1975 Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth would incur a disproportionate cost.

Policy: Reviews

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Ministers attended his round table policy review seminar on 22 January 2007. [125955]

John Healey: The policy review seminars have been open to all non-Cabinet Ministers able to attend.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid to *(a)* male and *(b)* female recipients by HM Revenue and Customs aged (i) 18 to 25, (ii) 26 to 30, (iii) 31 to 40, (iv) 41 to 50, (v) 51 to 60, (vi) 61 to 70, (vii) 71 to 80 and (viii) over 80 in the last period for which figures are available. [127008]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs provided access to personal tax information to another Government Department or agency in

2005-06; to which Departments or agencies access was provided; and what the reasons were for providing the access. [126739]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs discloses information gathered in carrying out its functions only where there is a statutory power to disclose. There is a wide range of statutory powers to disclose to other Government Departments and agencies. Disclosures are made for the purposes set out in those statutory powers. The information requested is not available.

Stamp Duties: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average stamp duty paid on a house was in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [126149]

Ed Balls: Estimates of amounts of stamp duty payable by each local authority, for 2005-06, were deposited in the House of Commons Library last June.

A table showing total amounts of stamp duty land tax arising in 2005-06 from residential transactions, and numbers of transactions, for counties, will be published in the summer. Reliable information is not available for earlier years.

Tax Evasion

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of income tax revenue lost through tax evasion in the last year for which figures are available. [126241]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently no reliable estimates of the income tax revenue lost through tax evasion.

Taxation: Electoral Register

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) under what circumstances his Department regards registration as a voter at a UK address as evidence of *(a)* residency and *(b)* domicile in the UK for tax purposes; and what account is taken of electoral registration in determining an individual's liability for tax in the UK; [126954]

(2) how many individuals resident in the UK claim non-domiciliary status for UK tax purposes; and what account is taken of the relationship between residency and domiciliary status for UK tax purposes; [127030]

(3) what checks are carried out to verify that *(a)* UK and *(b)* Commonwealth citizens who claim non-domiciliary status for UK tax purposes meet the criteria for this status. [127031]

Dawn Primarolo: Registration as a voter at a UK address is part of the evidence considered in relation to whether an individual is resident or domiciled in the UK for tax purposes and any consequent liability to tax in the UK.

Approximately 110,000 individuals claimed non-domicile tax status through self assessment tax returns in the year 2004-05. Liability to UK tax depends on the residence, ordinary residence and domicile status of individuals.

HM Revenue and Customs may ask any individual who claims non-domicile for further information, either as part of self-assessment return procedures or in response to a form DOM1.

Unemployment: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what change there was in unemployment rates for *(a)* white, *(b)* mixed Indian, *(c)* Pakistani, *(d)* Bangladeshi, *(e)* other Asian, *(f)* Black Caribbean, *(g)* Black African and *(h)* other ethnic groups in each year for which figures are available. [126133]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the unemployment rates for *(a)* white, *(b)* mixed Indian, *(c)* Pakistani, *(d)* Bangladeshi *(e)* other Asian, *(f)* Black Caribbean, *(g)* Black African and *(h)* other ethnic groups for which figures are available. (126133)

The table overleaf gives the unemployment rates by ethnicity. These rates are not seasonally adjusted. They are published each quarter in Table 10 of the Labour Market Statistics Historical Quarterly Supplement available on the ONS website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LFSHQS/Table10.xls

Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000, and Q1 (January-March) and Q3 (July-September) for the years 1997-2004.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is particularly true for the unemployment rates of some ethnic groups.

Unemployment rates[1] by ethnicity[2, 3], from 1997 to 2006, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		All origins	White	Indian[4]	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian
1997	Q1	7	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	7	7	8	23	19	[5]—
	Q3	7	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	6	6	9	17	24	14
1999	Q1	6	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	6	6	9	15	21	13
	Q3	6	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	6	5	7	15	22	12
2001	Q1	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	5	4	8	18	20	11
	Q3	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	5	5	8	14	26	8
2002	Q1	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	5	5	6	11	21	9
	Q3	6	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	5	5	7	15	[5]—	11

Unemployment rates[1] by ethnicity[2, 3] from 1997 to 2006, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		All origins	White	Indian[4]	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian
2003	Q1	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	5	4	7	14	23	10
	Q3	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	5	4	8	13	18	11
2004	Q1	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	5	4	5	14	15	10
	Q3	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	5	4	6	12	17	8
2005	Q1	5	4	5	13	17	7
	Q2	5	4	6	12	17	7
	Q3	5	4	9	14	16	9
	Q4	5	5	6	14	19	10
2006	Q1	5	5	7	14	18	12
	Q2	5	5	7	14	20	10
	Q3	6	5	9	15	14	7
	Q4	5	5	7	15	16	9

Percentage

		Black Caribbean	Black African	Other Black	Chinese	Mixed	Other
1997	Q1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	16	23	[5]—	[5]—	12	[5]—
	Q3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	15	24	[5]—	[5]—	14	[5]—
1999	Q1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	13	16	[5]—	[5]—	13	13
	Q3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	14	17	[5]—	[5]—	12	12
2001	Q1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	13	14	[5]—	[5]—	9	10
	Q3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	12	14	[5]—	[5]—	15	10
2002	Q1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	11	15	[5]—	[5]—	14	11
	Q3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	14	13	[5]—	[5]—	19	12
2003	Q1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	13	14	[5]—	[5]—	11	14
	Q3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	12	12	[5]—	[5]—	13	13
2004	Q1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q2	11	13	[5]—	[5]—	13	10
	Q3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Q4	10	13	[5]—	9	11	11

Percentage

		Black Caribbean	Black African	Other Black	Chinese	Mixed	Other
2005	Q1	12	13	[5]—	9	10	10
	Q2	11	14	[5]—	8	12	9
	Q3	12	13	[5]—	[5]—	12	10
	Q4	12	13	[5]—	9	13	11
2006	Q1	12	12	[5]—	[5]—	14	14
	Q2	12	13	[5]—	[5]—	12	13
	Q3	15	15	[5]—	[5]—	13	12
	Q4	14	14	[5]—	11	14	11

[1] Total unemployed as a percentage of all economically active persons.
[2] This table uses the National Statistics standard classification of ethnic groups.
[3] This table does not include people who did not state their ethnic group.
[4] Includes mixed Indian.
[5] Samples sizes are too small to provide reliable estimates.
Note:
Comparable estimates are not currently available for 1998 and 2000 and for quarters one and quarter three until 2005.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS).

VAT

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1141W, on VAT, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the letter of formal notice sent from the European Commission to the UK Government on 18 October 2006 and *(b)* the UK Government's response of 14 December 2006, referring to a complaint about a change in the law on 3 December 2004 on VAT on the supply of services to non-EU customers. [121752]

Dawn Primarolo: This matter is currently under consideration, and is the subject of discussions with the European Commission.

On completion of those considerations and discussions I will write to the hon. Member.

VAT: Fraud

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the loss of revenue to the Treasury from VAT carousel fraud in each of the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the potential loss in 2006-07. [126243]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC published annual estimates of the level of MTIC fraud alongside PBR 2006 in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2006', which is available from the House of Commons Library or from the HMRC website.

HMRC does not produce monthly estimates of revenue losses from carousel fraud and, as yet, no estimate has yet been produced for 2006-07, although operational indicators suggest that MTIC fraud activity has fallen sharply during the year.

Welfare Tax Credits: ICT

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the flexibility of the tax credit IT system; [126767]

(2) what assesament he has made of the risks associated with the tax credit IT system. [126768]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 12 March 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2028W, and to the Minutes of Evidence given to the Treasury Committee on 19 April 2006 ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 23 May 2006.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephones

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to retrieve and transcribe telephone records in the event of a dispute between the tax credit office and its clients regarding information imparted during a call; and if he will make a statement. [126478]

Dawn Primarolo: Calls to the tax credits helpline are digitally recorded and in the event of a dispute that cannot otherwise be settled, HMRC staff will retrieve the recording to establish the facts.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the potential effect of a ban on all alcohol advertising on the incidence of alcohol-related crimes. [126596]

Mr. Coaker: While advertising has been shown generally to influence individuals' awareness and attitudes, there is no clear evidence that advertising contributes to criminal behaviour such as violence. However, in response to the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy (2004), both the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) and the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) strengthened the non-broadcast and broadcast alcohol advertising code rules. The regulatory bodies; the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and Ofcom, are undertaking work, designed to assess the impact of these regulatory changes. CAP and BCAP are committed to robust evidence-based rules. If there were new evidence showing major harms, then the codes, or their interpretation, may be reviewed.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the availability of alcohol for sale in supermarkets on levels of criminal and antisocial behaviour in the vicinity of supermarkets. [126218]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey provides, for England and Wales, general data on; adult victims' perceptions on whether violent offenders were under the influence of alcohol; people's perceptions of whether drunk and rowdy behaviour is a problem in their area; and a range of other data about alcohol related offences. No specific data is collected centrally on crime and disorder in the vicinity of supermarkets.

The Government are determined to see the highest standards of alcohol retailing across the industry including off licences and supermarkets and welcomes the progress that has been made.

We continue to work with the major supermarkets and other retailers to encourage socially responsible retail of alcohol and to tackle some of the associated issues, for example underage sales. Following the success of the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns we will conduct, in May, a national Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaign.

The Licensing Act 2003 gives local authorities and the police a powerful framework to regulate the sale of alcohol and tackle irresponsible licensed premises. Where crime and disorder arises in the vicinity of licensed premises, the licence can be reviewed and, if appropriate, conditions can be added or the licence can be revoked.

Alcoholic Drinks: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol-related offences were committed in *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* Easington constituency in each of the last five years. [126449]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are alcohol-related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Asylum

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers from *(a)* Somalia, *(b)* Iraq and *(c)* Afghanistan had their application refused in 2006. [124775]

John Reid: Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals by nationality are published quarterly and annually. These publications, entitled 'Asylum Statistics 1/2/3/4 Quarter 2006, are too large to be included within the reply. Copies are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Crimes of Violence: Hospitals

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* violent assaults and *(b)* arrests took place in hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years; [124973]

(2) how many convictions for offences committed in hospitals in Lancashire were obtained in each of the last 10 years. [124974]

Mr. McNulty: Information from the NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service for physical assaults in Acute hospitals in the County of Lancashire is available for 2004-05 and 2005-06: with 297 physical assaults in 2004-05 and 343 physical assaults in 2005-06.

It is not possible to identify separately convictions for offences committed in hospitals from other information held centrally.

Criminal Casework Team

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes have been made to the Criminal Casework Team in each of the last five years. [124220]

John Reid: I have set out the average number of personnel working within the Criminal Casework Team in each of the last five years, 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2126W. The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 9 October 2006, setting out that this figure had increased to 530 staff. In her letter, the Director General also outlined that a new system of case ownership has been introduced to ensure that all deportation cases are managed and tracked by individual caseworkers as they pass through the system. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the criminal casework team was in each of the last five years; and how it was allocated in each year. [124318]

John Reid: Figures prior to 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

From 2004-05, the budget for the criminal casework team (rounded to the nearest £100,000) is in the following table.

	£
2004-05	2,200,000
2005-06	2,500,000
2006-07	10,600,000

The majority of this budget is allocated for staffing costs. The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Lin Homer, wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on the 9 October 2006 explaining that during 2006 there had been a five-fold increase in staffing levels within the criminal casework team. A copy of this letter is available in the House Library.

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time is for a Criminal Records Bureau check. [126325]

Joan Ryan: Data concerning the average waiting time taken to complete a disclosure are not a performance target and are not collated by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The CRB operates to a published service standard (PSS) to issue 93 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days. For January 2007, the CRB issued 99.2 per cent. of standard disclosures and 90.8 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within PSS.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of Authentication by Interview officers to be employed by his Department in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [125948]

Joan Ryan: The interview officer role will gradually transition to that of interview and enrolment officer from 2009, and staff will be trained accordingly. This is to meet the need for the business additionally to record biometrics from all applicants in readiness for the issuing of second biometric passports and identity cards.

It is expected that there will be a need for more enrolment officers than the roughly 600 interview officers to be employed this year during the implementation of the authentication by interview process. Any additional staff are likely to be required from mid 2009, but it is premature to identify how many this will be as it depends on the date when IPS is ready to start initial biometric enrolment and the rate of increase in volume of customers which will depend on the progressive implementation plan.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Authentication by Interview officers have been recruited; and which company his Department has commissioned to recruit them. [125949]

Joan Ryan: IPS has recruited 55 interview office staff who have started work and offered a job to a further 539 people. Some are to be full time and others are part time staff. Recruitment was carried out by IPS supported by our recruitment partner Barkers, who assisted with application response handling.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent job advertisement for the position of Authentication by Interview officer. [125950]

Joan Ryan: I confirm that the most recent interview officer job advertisements for the recruitment campaign held in September 2006 will be placed in the Library.

Departments: Travel

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many miles staff in his private office travelled on official business in 2005-06. [124732]

John Reid: Departmental records on travel are not kept by length of journey and therefore this question cannot be answered within the disproportionate cost threshold.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Driving Offences

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted for failing to comply with *(a)* a stop sign and *(b)* traffic light signals in each of the last 10 years. [125022]

Mr. Coaker: The information collected centrally does not identify separately offences of neglect of stop signs and traffic light signals.

Available information taken from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, from 1995 to 2004 (latest available) is provided in the table.

2005 data will be available later this year.

Number of convictions at all courts for the offence of failing to comply with traffic light signals/signs[1], England and Wales, 1995 to 2004

	Number of offences
	Total
1995	24,480
1996	25,307
1997	23,563
1998	20,966
1999	18,971
2000	21,893
2001	20,028
2002	17,872
2003	17,094
2004	13,775

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973; the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 1994.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system currently being implemented by the Department for Constitutional Affairs reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Driving Under Influence: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink driving offences were committed in *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* Easington constituency in each of the last five years. [126450]

Mr. Coaker: Available information on the number of convictions at all courts and those dealt with by written warning, taken from the annual Home Office publication "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales Supplementary tables", for Durham police force area (which is coterminous with the County of Durham), from 2000 to 2004 (latest available) are given in the table.

Data is not available at constituency level.

2005 data will be available later this year.

Number of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] offences found guilty at all courts or dealt with by written warning within Durham police force area, 2000 to 2004

	Number of offences				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total findings of guilt at all courts	1,124	1,097	1,136	1,170	1,277
Written warnings	2	0	0	0	11
Total	1,126	1,097	1,136	1,170	1,288

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system currently being implemented by the Department for Constitutional Affairs reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Elderly: Abuse

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps the Government is taking to reduce the number of cases of abuse or mistreatment of elderly people; [123690]

(2) what steps the Government is taking to ensure that older people are aware of their rights in cases of abuse and mistreatment. [123691]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Government deplore abuse of all older people. We have set out standards of care and treatment for older people in the national service framework and in national minimum standards for care homes and domiciliary care agencies. We have also created independent regulators and given them the powers they need to take action against poorly providing performers. Staff who provide personal care to older people in their own homes or in care homes are subject to statutory checks, including checks of their criminal record and the protection of vulnerable adults scheme.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 introduces a new vetting and barring scheme which will be passed in from autumn 2008. The new scheme will be proactive, with vetting taking place on an individual's first application to work with children or vulnerable adults. This will make it far more difficult for abusers to gain access to the most vulnerable groups in our society.

Statutory guidance has been issued to local authorities on putting in place multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable people from abuse. "No Secrets" makes it clear that local strategies for the prevention of abuse of vulnerable adults should include plans to disseminate information to users, carers, relevant staff groups and agencies to ensure they are aware of local arrangements including how to report abuse.

The Department has commissioned research, jointly with Comic Relief, on the prevalence and nature of abuse of older people who live in their own homes. It will be published later this year.

Entry Clearances: Marriage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many marriage visas were granted in each year since 1985. [126044]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the following table. Please note that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office electronic resources only go as far back as 1998 for marriage/fiancé(e) visas.

Applications for UK marriage/fiancé (e) visas issued from 1998 to 2006

	Number
1998	3,198
1999	3,008
2000	3,915
2001	5,241
2002	5,429
2003	5,634
2004	5,546
2005	6,683
2006	7,480

Note:
UKvisas makes every effort to ensure that statistics produced from our 'Central Reference System' are accurate. However, the complexity of our global business, including technical failures or occasional inconsistencies in data entry across any of over 150 offices, means we cannot 100 per cent. guarantee accuracy.
Sources:
1998-2003: Central Reference System (CRS) 7 March 2007
2004-2006: Statistics Search Screen on CRS 7 March 2007

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people received marriage visas in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2000, *(c)* 1995, *(d)* 1990 and *(e)* 1985, broken down by nationality. [126046]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the following table. Please note that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office electronic resources go as far back as 1998 only for marriage/fiancé(e) visas. These statistics therefore cover the years 2005 and 2000 only.

Nationality	*2005*	*2000*
Afghanistan	7	2
Albania	654	32
Algeria	20	12
Angola	2	2
Antigua and Barbuda	4	2
Argentina	41	3
Armenia	5	0
Australia	185	178
Azerbaijan	13	0
Bahamas	0	2
Bahrain	2	1
Bangladesh	28	9
Barbados	10	6
Belarus	47	20
Benin	0	0
Bermuda	0	1
Bolivia	7	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9	10
Botswana	1	2
Brazil	208	41
British National Overseas	17	8
British Overseas Citizen	0	1
Bulgaria	53	23
Burma (Myanmar)	2	0
Burundi	0	0
Cambodia	2	0
Cameroon	11	0
Canada	120	64
Cape Verde	0	1
Chile	14	0
China	165	104
Colombia	61	12
Congo	2	2
Costa Rica	2	0
Croatia	24	19
Cuba	32	10
Cyprus	1	7
Czech Republic	0	50
Democratic Republic of Congo	11	0
Dominica	4	3
Dominican Republic	6	4
Ecuador	11	2
Egypt	28	15
El Salvador	2	0
Equatorial Guinea	1	0
Eritrea	0	2
Estonia	0	16
Ethiopia	9	8
Fiji	3	0
Gabon	1	0
Gambia	9	6
Georgia	4	0
Ghana	17	12
Grenada	6	0
Guatemala	2	0
Guinea	3	1
Guinea-Bissau	2	2
Guyana	12	3
Haiti	1	0
Honduras	3	0
Hong Kong	21	2
Hungry	0	44
India	466	327
Indonesia	32	32
Iran	40	9
Iraq	10	3
Israel	72	28
Ivory Coast	6	2
Jamaica	19	16
Japan	217	120
Jordan	3	1
Kazakhstan	31	29
Kenya	22	19
Korea (North)	1	0
Kyrgyzstan	11	8
Laos	5	3
Latvia	1	0
Lebanon	11	1
Lesotho	2	0
Liberia	2	1
Libya	12	0

Nationality	2005	2000
Lithuania	0	13
Macau	4	0
Macedonia	5	6
Madagascar	2	0
Malawi	11	0
Malaysia	55	31
Maldives	1	0
Mali	1	1
Mauritania	2	0
Mauritius	13	13
Mexico	55	22
Moldova	28	13
Mongolia	4	1
Morocco	42	20
Mozambique	1	2
Namibia	9	0
Nepal	17	1
New Zealand	67	76
Nicaragua	2	0
Niger	1	0
Nigeria	37	12
None	2	0
Oman	1	1
Pakistan	273	337
Palestinian Authority	3	0
Panama	5	0
Papua New Guinea	1	0
Paraguay	3	0
Peru	43	2
Philippines	302	185
Poland	0	73
Qatar	0	1
Refugee (Art 1 1951 Convention)	0	0
Romania	124	61
Russia	417	254
Rwanda	1	0
Sao Tome and Principe	0	0
Senegal	5	0
Seychelles	11	0
Sierra Leone	2	7
Singapore	18	26
Slovakia	0	88
Slovenia	0	2
Somalia	3	0
South Africa	202	67
South Korea	34	18
Sri Lanka	13	7
St. Kitts and Nevis	2	1
St. Lucia	7	6
St. Vincent	4	4
Stateless (Art 1 1951 Convention)	5	1
Sudan	7	1
Swaziland	1	2
Switzerland	0	12
Syria	5	3
Taiwan	34	6
Tajikistan	1	0
Tanzania	18	4
Thailand	534	349
Togo	3	2
Trinidad and Tobago	29	9
Tunisia	23	17
Turkey	106	67
Turkmenistan	3	0
Uganda	13	6
Ukraine	254	196
United States	753	476
Unspecified Nationality	14	0
Uruguay	2	0
Uzbekistan	13	0
Venezuela	21	0
Vietnam	44	8
XXH	0	3
XXP	1	0
Yemen	3	1
Yugoslavia	55	36
Zambia	7	1
Zimbabwe	33	3
Total	6,683	3,899

Note:
UKvisas makes every effort to ensure that statistics produced from our 'Central Reference System' are accurate. However, the complexity of our global business, including technical failures or occasional inconsistencies in data entry across any of over 150 offices, means we cannot 100 per cent. guarantee accuracy.
Source:
CRS.
Endorsement: Marriage/CP.

Fingerprints: Children

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what alternatives to a fingerprint database are being considered for children who turn 16 and already have a valid non-biometric passport; and what assessment he has made of their compliance with international requirements for biometrics on passports. [126203]

Joan Ryan: Non-biometric passports remain valid until their date of expiry. This includes passports of five year validity issued to children under the age of 16.

International standards on passports relate only to the passport documents, not systems on which records of passports issued are held.

Identity and Passport Service

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many United States citizens are employed by the Identity and Passport Service. [126177]

Joan Ryan: The place of birth of each Identity and Passport Service (IPS) employee is not held on a database which can be interrogated in order for the IPS to supply this information.

However, the IPS employment eligibility criteria states that posts are open to UK nationals, British protected persons, Commonwealth citizens, EEA nationals of other member states and certain EEA family members, who have no employment restriction or time limit on their permitted stay in the UK and who should also have been a resident for five years immediately preceding their application.

Identity and Passport Service: Correspondence

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will direct the Chief Executive of the Identity and Passport Service to provide *(a)* substantive replies to correspondence and *(b)* a response to a request for a meeting from the hon. Member for Bassetlaw in relation to his constituent, Mr. Gordon Wilson of Worksop. [123417]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* Bernard Herdan, Executive Director, Service Planning and Delivery for the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) responded substantively to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw on 23 January 2007.

Mr. Herdan wrote to the hon. Member again on 23 February, apologising that he had not addressed directly the issue of a meeting in his earlier letter and for failing to clearly explain that, in the circumstances, he did not feel that a meeting was necessary.

I am however happy to meet with the hon. Member if necessary. However I note that Mr. Gordon Wilson has now been issued a passport.

Illegal Drugs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents involving the *(a)* sale and *(b)* use of illegal drugs on school property were reported in each (i) local education authority, (ii) London borough and (iii) regional police force in each year since 2000. [117795]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not available centrally.

Immigration Controls: EC Countries

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on the proposal for an enhanced role for the EU borders agency Frontex. [123495]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are supportive of Frontex. Its position on the European Commission's proposal on Rapid Border Intervention Teams was stated in an Explanatory Memorandum of 7 September 2006 on Council document number 11880/06.

Immigration: EC Enlargement

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number of nationals that have moved to the UK following the accession of the most recent members of the EU, broken down by country of origin. [122995]

Mr. Byrne: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will publish information on visits to the UK by residents from all EU countries including the A8 countries and Romania and Bulgaria (each country listed separately) in its quarterly and annual publications on overseas travel and tourism.

Internet: Fraud

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many complaints of fraud in relation to online retail websites were made in each year since 1997; [126230]

(2) what steps the Serious and Organised Crime Agency is taking to deal with reports of fraud in relation to online retailing; [126231]

(3) how many reported instances of fraud involving online retailing have been referred to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency; and what the status is of investigations in each case in which no legal proceedings are active. [126232]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of complaints of fraud in relation to online retail websites is not held centrally.

Along with Class A drugs and organised immigration crime, fraud against individuals and the private sector is one of SOCA's priorities. SOCA is working collaboratively with partners to build knowledge and understanding of fraud and to align operational activity to those frauds and individuals causing the most harm to the UK.

SOCA does not operate a formal referral process in respect of frauds SOCA works collaboratively with partners to identify and protect against those frauds and individuals causing the most harm to the UK and aligns operational activity accordingly. SOCA is unable to comment on ongoing operational activity. As required by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, SOCA will issue an annual report as soon as possible after the end of financial year 2006-07. This report will cover all SOCA's functions.

The Home Office is represented on an industry-led steering group which aims to tackle 'Card Not Present' (CNP) fraud (which includes fraud over the internet). We support practical measures being introduced by the industry to increase levels of security for internet transactions. These include address verification services (AVS) and card security code (CSC), along with Mastercard secure code and Verified by Visa which require password verification for internet transactions.

Mobile Phone Use

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought against and *(b)* fixed penalty notices were imposed on drivers in each police authority area using mobile phones while driving in 2005; [111398]

(2) what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average penalty imposed for driving while using a hand-held mobile phone was in each month in 2005. [111399]

Mr. Coaker: 2005 data will be available later this year.

National Identity Register

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to charge *(a)* accredited organisations and *(b)* other Government Departments for identity checking services via the National Identity Register. [123629]

John Reid: It is the Government's intention to fund the National Identity Scheme primarily through fee income for the products and services that arise from the scheme. This may include fees for use of identity verification services.

However, the level of fee and the way it is charged, depends on a number of factors: (a) the final cost of providing such services, as determined in procurement negotiations with suppliers (b) the particular type(s) of identity verification service used and (c) the approval of schedule of fees for the scheme by Parliament.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners who have *(a)* reached the end of their sentence and *(b)* not reached the end of their sentence were detained in immigration detention centres on the last date for which information is available. [123626]

John Reid: The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007, providing a snapshot of the number of time-served foreign national prisoners who are awaiting deportation in both the IND Removals Estate and in prisons. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cases in which a foreign national was to be deported due to a conviction in the UK were delayed following completion of the prison term where the foreign national was *(a)* contesting and *(b)* not contesting the deportation in each of the last five years; [124119]

(2) what the average length of time between the completion of the prison sentence and deportation from the UK, where a foreign national was deported due to a conviction in the UK, has been in the last five years; [124233]

(3) what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* shortest period of time has been between the completion of the prison sentence and deportation from the UK where a foreign national is to be deported due to a conviction in the UK in the last five years. [124231]

John Reid: The requested information is not available and could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

On 19 February the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals who have served a prison sentence in the UK and are awaiting deportation have made a complaint regarding the length of time between completion of the prison sentence and deportation; [124120]

(2) how many complaints his Department has received regarding the Criminal Casework Team in each of the last five years; and how many of these resulted in alterations to the Team. [124219]

John Reid: This information is not collected in the format requested and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are awaiting deportation due to having committed a criminal offence in the UK and following completion of their prison term. [124218]

John Reid: On 19 February the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee. In this letter the Director General reported that approximately 1,300 time-served foreign nationals are currently in both the IND Removals Estate and in prisons while IND pursues deportation action against them. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average cost of transportation, including security and all other related costs, is for deporting a foreign national who is being deported following a conviction in the UK if the deportation is successful; [124230]

(2) what costs of transportation, including security and all other related costs, of foreign nationals who are being deported due to having committed a criminal offence are irrecoverable where the deportation is *(a)* rescheduled and *(b)* cancelled. [124235]

John Reid: We do not differentiate between the cost of deporting ex-foreign national prisoners and other detainees so the information requested is not readily discernible.

The information requested could be obtained only by examination of individual records to establish whether the person had committed a criminal offence at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attempted deportations of foreign nationals who have served prison sentences in the UK have had to be rescheduled in the last five years. [124232]

John Reid: This information is not collected in the format requested and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through a manual search of individual case records.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 10 causes of delay to deportation are the most frequent where a foreign national offender is to be deported following a conviction in the UK; and what steps his Department has taken to tackle them. [124319]

John Reid: The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Lin Homer, wrote to the Home Affair Committee on 19 February 2007 to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners.

In her letter, the Director General outlined the factors that have contributed to delays in deportation and new strategy which has been put in place to ensure that the deportation system is as robust and swift as possible. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost per day is of detaining a foreign national awaiting deportation following a conviction in the UK. [124332]

John Reid: The average daily cost of detaining a person in an immigration removal centre is £116.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost of detaining foreign nationals awaiting deportation following a conviction in the UK was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [124333]

John Reid: We do not differentiate between the cost of detaining foreign nationals awaiting deportation following a conviction in the UK and other detainees so the information requested is not readily discernible.

The information requested could be obtained only by examination of individual records to establish whether the person had committed a criminal offence at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what facilities are being used to house the foreign nationals convicted of a crime in the UK prior to their deportation. [124334]

John Reid: The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Lin Homer, wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007 to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. In her letter, the Director General set out that prior to removal, foreign national prisoners are housed in both the IND Removals Estate and in prisons. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the foreign nationals awaiting deportation have been held in prison in England and Wales for up to *(a)* one month, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months after the end of the sentence handed down by the court to them. [125054]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007, providing the most accurate and robust information currently available on the detention of time-served foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Open Prisons: Drugs

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were found to be in possession of narcotics in each open prison in each of the last five years. [125342]

John Reid: The information requested is not held centrally and to obtain this information, for the period requested, would be at disproportionate cost.

Passports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the likely lifespan of the information chip in the new passport. [126305]

Joan Ryan: The Identity and Passport Service believe that the lifespan of the chip in the e-passport will match the full 10-year validity period of the e-passport, assuming the passport is subject to normal usage and levels of "wear and tear".

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether first-time passport applicants will be reimbursed for the cost of travelling to and from an Authentication by Interview centre. [126605]

Joan Ryan: The Government do not propose to offer financial help to those customers attending a passport interview. Interview arrangements and office locations have been designed to keep the cost of attending as low as possible.

Police: North Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces use roads located in the North Wales police area for the purposes of police driver training. [123824]

Mr. Coaker: This is an operational matter for the police and my Department does not keep information on such use of the roads. I understand from North Wales police that their Driving School provides training to a number of other forces. They are also aware that a number of other police forces use roads in the area for police driver training. They do not however keep records of or monitor such usage.

Police: Pay

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact on Criminal Investigation Department officers of the abolition of the plain clothes allowance in 2004. [126023]

Mr. McNulty: Plain clothes allowance was paid at an annual rate to officers below the rank of assistant chief constable who were required for a continuous period of not less than a week to do duty in plain clothes. From April 2003 the annual rate was £129. An officer below the rank of superintendent who was required to perform duties in plain clothes for not less than 40 hours in any six month period was paid a plain clothes allowance for these duties at an hourly rate of 6.5p. The rates payable from April 2003 were half those paid in the preceding year and entitlement to a plain clothes allowance ceased entirely with effect from 31 March 2004. No assessment has been made of the cessation of this allowance.

Police: Pensions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 363-64W, on police force pensions, from which Government fund shortfalls in police authorities' funds are topped up. [126002]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office top-up payments are classed as annually managed expenditure (AME) and do not come within departmental expenditure limits (DEL). These arrangements are similar to those used by other unfunded public service pension schemes, for example those for teachers, civil servants and NHS staff. As part of the transition to the new system of financing police pensions, adjustments have been made to the level of Government funding through police grant so that no disadvantage arises at the point of change to the police, local or national taxpayers.

Prisons: Television

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason *(a)* television and *(b)* satellite television subscription services are provided to inmates in prison and detention facilities; and if he will make a statement. [125283]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The provision of television in prison, along with other forms of media, enables prisoners to remain in touch with events in the outside world which forms an important part of the rehabilitation process.

Television in cells is an integral part of the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme operated by all prisons. Prisoners who are on the basic level of the scheme do not have access to televisions. A small number of prisons provide satellite subscription services in association area.

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects measures in section 35 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 to come into force. [126294]

Mr. Coaker: We propose to lay an order commencing this provision shortly.

Work Permits: Doctors

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-European economic area national *(a)* junior doctors and *(b)* qualified doctors (i) were granted a work permit between July 2005 and February 2006 and (ii) have been granted such a permit since July 2006. [122179]

John Reid: Management information does not allow for data to be broken down into the categories of 'junior doctors' and 'qualified doctors'. The number of approved applications recorded under the occupation category of "Doctor" is as follows:

July to February each year.	*Approvals*
2005-06	2,558
2006-07	1,315

The figures provided are not national statistics but are based on provisional management information and may be subject to change.

Other similar occupation categories for health professionals, e.g. senior house officer, specialist registrar, etc, are not included in the figures provided.

HEALTH

NHS Dentistry

11. **Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the level of access to NHS dentistry. [126780]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Access to NHS dentistry is increasing—in April 2006, primary care trusts had commissioned 75 million annual units of dental activity; by January 2007 that had increased to 78.4 million

Children's National Service Framework

12. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in improving outcomes for disabled children in the ways described by standard 8 of the children's national service framework. [126781]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are making good progress as we enter the second year of the 10-year framework to improve outcomes for disabled children. Our achievements include: £27 million investment in palliative care over the next three years, we are carrying out a radical review of the provision of community equipment and wheelchair services and investing in the development of an audit tool to assist the health service and local authorities to assess progress in implementing standard 8 of the national standard framework.

NHS Finance

13. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on NHS financial performance in the year 2006-07. [126782]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the national health service finance report for the third quarter of 2006-07 which we published on 20 February.

This report shows that the NHS as a whole remains on course to deliver net financial balance by the end of this current financial year, and continues to perform well against key service targets.

20. **Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if she will make a statement on NHS financial performance in 2006-07. [126790]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the national health service finance report for the third quarter of 2006-07 which we published on 20 February.

This report shows that the NHS as a whole remains on course to deliver net financial balance by the end of this current financial year, and continues to perform well against key service targets.

Maternity Services

14. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the outcome of the review of maternity services. [126783]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We will be publishing a framework document to support the delivery of choice in maternity services shortly.

GP Practices: Dispensing

15. **Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the ability of GP practices in rural areas to dispense medication; and if she will make a statement. [126784]

Caroline Flint: The current review of pharmaceutical services, which includes dispensing by general practitioners, is looking at how we can provide local, high quality services. The review is scheduled to report by the end March and will contribute to a public consultation later in the spring.

Local Involvement Network

16. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what consultation exercises she has undertaken to assess levels of public support for local involvement networks. [126785]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The decision to establish LINKs resulted from listening to stakeholders and members of the public during the review of patient and public involvement.

The Department sought views from stakeholders and the public on the proposals for LINKs set out in 'A stronger local voice', published in July 2006.

Carers

17. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what action her Department is taking to improve advice and support for those with caring responsibilities. [126786]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We recently announced the New Deal for Carers, a package of support including £25 million for short breaks for carers in crisis situations in every council; £3 million towards a national helpline for carers; and £5 million for an experts carers programme. The Chancellor has also announced we will be holding the most far-reaching national consultation ever on the role of carers. In the months ahead we will invite carers' groups and the voluntary sector to help us design a modern vision for caring.

Bank Nurses

18. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what measures she has considered to reduce the use of bank nurses in the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [126787]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No measures have been considered to reduce the use of bank staff. Bank staff perform an important function in the national health service by providing a flexible workforce. Bank working can also provide a good work life balance for staff. A recent report by the National Audit Office shows that bank nurses provide better value for money than agency nurses.

Organ Transplants

19. **Mr. Anthony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people died while on waiting lists for organ transplants in each year since 2001. [126789]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Tragically 2,761 people died while listed for an organ transplant since 2001. 451 people in 2001, 427 in 2002, 485 in 2003, 455 in 2004, 495 in 2005, and 448 people in 2006. I have put a table in the Library showing the breakdown by organ

Number of patients dying 2001-06 while listed for an organ transplant, UK.

Organ awaited	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Kidney	253	260	303	293	286	261
Pancreas	—	—	2	1	2	—
Kidney/ pancreas	6	5	6	8	16	9
Heart	35	19	17	21	23	29
Lung(s)	64	57	65	53	66	50
Heart/ lungs	32	26	20	14	9	8
Liver	61	60	72	65	93	91
Total	451	427	485	455	495	448

Obesity

21. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to tackle obesity in adults and children. [126791]

Caroline Flint: We are totally committed to tackling obesity, working in partnership nationally and locally. We have set ourselves a public service agreement target to halt the year on year rise in obesity among children aged under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole.

Work-based Learning

22. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that NHS staff have opportunities for work-based learning. [126792]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service has received unprecedented levels of investment in recent years. This has allowed the NHS to invest heavily in training and development opportunities for all staff.

Employers have a duty to ensure staff have the appropriate education and training including work-based learning to support priorities and deliver services.

Acute Services

23. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on proposed changes to acute NHS services in England. [126793]

Andy Burnham: Any proposals for changes to services are a matter for the national health service locally. There is a well established and well understood process for managing consultations on such changes so that patients, the public and local stakeholders can help to inform the local debate.

Asthma: Medical Equipment

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to replace chlorofluorocarbon-based asthma inhalers with CFC-free version for patients over the age of 12. [126729]

Caroline Flint: The transfer of patients to chlorofluorocarbon-free (CFC) metered dose inhalers (MDIs) began in 1995 when the first one was licensed for use in the United Kingdom. Many more have been introduced to the market since that time.

The Government's plan for phasing out CFCs in asthma inhalers is set out in the UK Transition Strategy for CFC-based MDIs, which was developed after consultation with all relevant stakeholders and published by the Department and the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions in 1999. It was communicated widely to health care professionals in the national health service, patient groups and patients at that time.

The Department and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs continue to actively pursue the phase-out of CFCs in MDIs in accordance with the UK Transition Strategy. In February 2007, the UK declared CFCs to be non-essential for four of the six drug categories set out in this strategy.

Audiology: Eastern Region

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time was for each primary care trust in *(a)* East of England Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* South Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust for audiology-related treatment in the last period for which figures are available; [119991]

(2) how many patients were waiting for audiology-related treatment in *(a)* East of England Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* South Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust in the last period for which figures are available. [119992]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Blood: Cholesterol

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the 11 spearhead areas in London towards *(a)* better detection and *(b)* more treatment of (i) high blood pressure and (ii) high blood cholesterol levels. [124780]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The new general medical services (GMS) contract specification encourages primary care practices to identify and treat patients with high blood pressure and to test and control cholesterol levels in patients with coronary heart disease, diabetes or stroke. The tables show the number of available points achieved against these indicators demonstrating that general practitioner practices are making good progress of improving these detection and treatment rates.

The applicable quality and outcomes framework (QOF) data has been placed in the Library.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account was taken of NHS guidelines on blood cholesterol levels in Scotland when setting those for England. [124781]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's policy on cholesterol levels is set out in the national service framework (NSF) for coronary heart disease (CHD). The NSF for CHD set cholesterol levels taking into account the Joint British Societies' recommendations reported in 1998, as well as the Scottish report "Secondary prevention clinics for coronary heart disease: randomised trial of effect on health" written by Campbell, Thain, Deans et al. which detailed emerging evidence in 1998.

Carers: Grants

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her Department's *(a)* plans and *(b)* projected budget are for the carer's grant in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and if she will make a statement; [125148]

(2) how many carers of older people had short breaks funded by the carer's grant in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2004 , *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2006; [125149]

(3) how her Department monitors local authorities' spending of the carer's grant. [125150]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Decisions about the future of the carers grant in the next spending review period will be taken later this year.

Sustaining carers' support will be ensured through the existing system for monitoring councils' performance by the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

The number of carers for older people receiving breaks services through the carers grant in England are shown in the table. Figures for 2002-03 are not available.

	Number
2003-04	72,901
2004-05	73,946
2005-06	96,758

Source:
2005-06 adults delivery and improvement statement—Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Community Hospitals: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the process is for applying to her Department's community hospital and services programme to build a community hospital in Hartlepool constituency. [124727]

Andy Burnham: The process for applying for funding from the community hospital and services programme is as follows:

Primary care trusts interested in applying for funding should, as a first step, and in partnership with their local practice based commissioners, local community and stakeholders develop or review current plans for community services (including existing community hospitals) against the design principles, as set out in "Our health, our care, our community: investing in the future of community hospitals and services".

PCTs should then submit their proposals to their respective strategic health authorities (SHAs).

The SHAs will assess the bids submitted, and check that they meet local need, demonstrate value for money, and meet with their strategic priorities. Those that satisfy these criteria, will then be passed on to the Department for further consideration.

Contraceptives

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to promote awareness of long acting contraceptives; and if she will make a statement. [124455]

Caroline Flint: The Government recognise the importance of women having access to the full range of contraceptive methods. A guideline has been developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs) and this emphasized the cost effectiveness of currently available LARC methods.

We will be issuing best practice guidance on reproductive healthcare this spring which will include further guidance on improving access to LARCs.

Dental Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of people requiring access to NHS dentistry to whom it is unavailable. [125551]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 March 2007]:* The Department estimates that there are some two million people in England who would like to access national health service dental services but are unable to do so. This estimate predates the dental reforms introduced in April 2006.

The reforms have for the first time give primary care trusts (PCTs) direct control of resources for commissioning local dental services. PCTS are also now responsible for assessing local needs and developing services to reflect these needs. In Cumbria, for example, the local NHS has undertaken considerable work to assess oral health needs and reflect these in its commissioning programme, which has recently included establishing a new practice for some 2,500 NHS patients in Windermere.

Dental Services: East Yorkshire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many spare units of dental activity there were in East Yorkshire each month since the introduction of the new dental contract; and if she will make a statement. [126816]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the new dental contracts introduced in April 2006, dental practices provide an agreed level of national health service services over the course of each year. Annual service levels are measured using a weighted indicator of courses of treatment, known as units of dental activity. There are no monthly quotas or targets for units of dental activity.

Since the introduction of the reforms, the level of dental services commissioned by the NHS has grown steadily throughout the year, and primary care trusts are now commissioning more dental services than were provided in 2005-06.

Depression

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has monitored the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on depression; and if she will make a statement. [112023]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not directly monitored the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) clinical guidelines on depression. Healthcare organisations' compliance with NICE guidelines is part of the developmental standard D2 which is being assessed in shadow form in the Healthcare Commission's annual health check of mental health trusts in 2006-07. This means that assessment of performance against developmental standard D2 will not feed into the overall annual rating in 2006-07. However, it is expected to form part of the rating from 2007-08.

In May 2006, the Department embarked on the improving access to psychological therapies programme which is intended to increase the availability of evidence based psychological therapies and help full implementation of the NICE clinical guidelines on depression.

Health Services: Mentally Incapacitated

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department will extend the protection afforded by the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Scheme to apply to vulnerable users of NHS facilities. [125086]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On the recommendation of the Bichard Inquiry we are introducing a new centralised vetting and barring scheme for people working with children and vulnerable people. This scheme, as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, will extend the coverage of the existing barring schemes and draw on wider sources of information to provide a more comprehensive and consistent measure of protection for vulnerable groups across a wide range of settings, including the whole of social care and the national health service.

The new scheme will be proactive, with vetting taking place on an individual's first application to work with children or vulnerable adults and will make it far more difficult for abusers to gain access to some of the most vulnerable groups in society. The new scheme will be phased in from autumn 2008.

Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the cost of violent and abusive patients to West Midlands strategic health authority in terms of extra security, absenteeism, training of staff and legal bills. [124210]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is a matter for the relevant local national health service organisations. The NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) is part of the Counter Fraud and Security Management Service (CFSMS), a division of the NHS Business Service Authority, and has overall responsibility for all policy and operational matters related to the management of security in the NHS. On behalf of the Secretary of State for Health, the NHS SMS determines the policies, legal framework, operational guidance and minimum standards necessary to ensure that the objective of providing a secure environment for the NHS can be achieved. It also provides central and regional support to those charged with undertaking security management work in health bodies, so that the required standards can be met.

Insulin

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that Glockhardt UK passes its technology to another manufacturer in order to guarantee continuity of supply of animal insulins, as discussed at the meeting between Department of Health officials and key stakeholders on 17 May 2006; and if she will make a statement; [126412]

(2) what her Department's strategy is for the supply of animal insulin; when it was published; and if she will place a copy of the strategy in the Library. [126414]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her letter to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill), dated 28 November 2006, and her letter to Earl Howe dated 10 July 2006, what her Department's insulin strategy is; when it was published; if she will place a copy of the strategy in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [126267]

Caroline Flint: The Department has received assurances from Wockhardt UK that if at any time in the future it decided to cease supply of its animal insulins, it would actively support another manufacturer with its licence application, sharing licence data to support it coming into the market to the best of its ability. The Department will support and facilitate this process.

The Department's strategy for the supply of animal insulins has been placed in the Library.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her letter of 28 November 2006 to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst, on the strategy of supply of animal insulin, whether the provision of the option of animal insulin to patients only if considered appropriate by the health care professionals is in accordance with the Doctor-Patient Partnership outlined by the General Medical Council's new good medical practice guidelines which came into force on 13 November 2006. [126413]

Caroline Flint: All decisions about appropriate treatment regimes for people with diabetes should be made between the individual concerned and their health care professional. The choice of insulin is the result of their joint decision-making process.

Liver Diseases: Alcoholic Drinks

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of alcohol-related cirrhosis of the liver there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. [124017]

Caroline Flint: Information regarding the number of diagnoses of alcohol-related cirrhosis of the liver is collected centrally only for individuals suffering from this condition in secondary (for example, hospital) care. The information is shown in the following table.

All diagnoses count of episodes for alcohol-related cirrhosis of the liver, 1996-97 to 2005-06—national health service hospitals: England

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
0 to five	0	0	0	0	0
Five to 14	0	0	0	0	1
15 to 24	6	14	7	13	11
25 to 34	270	334	343	375	332
35 to 44	1,320	1,520	1,495	1,671	1,827
45 to 54	2,104	2,441	2,609	3,078	3,236
55 to 64	1,736	2,004	2,137	2,506	2,599
65 to 74	1,181	1,178	1,264	1,515	1,442
75 to 84	288	362	415	468	458
85 to 120	33	29	30	47	48
Age not known	29	51	45	9	19
Total	6,967	7,933	8,345	9,682	9,973

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
0 to five	0	0	0	0	0
Five to 14	0	0	1		1
15 to 24	7	19	27	18	26
25 to 34	354	399	455	550	642
35 to 44	1,830	2,038	2,412	2,759	3,123
45 to 54	3,437	3,823	4,380	5,024	5,961

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
55 to 64	2,836	3,317	3,888	4,924	5,636
65 to 74	1,581	2,074	2,410	2,568	2,953
75 to 84	443	578	559	736	915
85 to 120	46	60	52	72	89
Age not known	52	35	22	33	44
Total	10,586	12,343	14,206	16,684	19,390

Notes:
1. Finished consultant episode (FCE) An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have one episode of care within a year.
2. All diagnoses count as episodes. These figures represent a count of all FCEs where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.
3. K.70.3 Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver—ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital episode statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

Lyme Disease

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 916-7W, on Lyme disease, what strategies her Department has in place to deal with the increase in the number of people contracting Lyme disease. [124013]

Caroline Flint: Increases in laboratory confirmed cases have occurred due to both improved ascertainment and increased exposure to infection.

There is now an expanded and improved repertoire of diagnostic tests that have become available in the past three years to enable rapid laboratory confirmation of diagnosis of Lyme disease.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) provides clinical advice to physicians who care for patients who may have Lyme disease, and has nationwide links to experts in infectious diseases, neurology, rheumatology and other specialties who have a particular interest in Lyme disease, to whom patients can be referred. The HPA takes part in national and international collaborations to improve diagnostic tests and to promote evidence based treatments.

The HPA has raised awareness of Lyme disease through its website and through presentations to, and discussions with, professional and recreational and special interest groups. NHS Direct has published comprehensive information on the disease, including preventive measures, on its website.

Medical Training Application Service

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the projected cost was of the Medical Training Application Service at the instigation of the service; and what the latest estimate is of the cost of the service. [126460]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The projected cost of the medical training application service at instigation was £5.8 million over five years for an England only service. Expanding to United Kingdom wide coverage and incorporating academic/specialty and general practitioner recruitment into a single, two-round recruitment exercise has slightly increased set-up costs. The projected cost of the service is now expected to be £6.3 million over five years.

NHS: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of NHS deficits on local authority budgets. [126788]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Delivering high quality health and social care while remaining on a sound financial footing can only be achieved by national health service bodies and local authorities working together to make best use of the available resources.

Local area agreements are negotiated between partners to reflect local circumstances.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information her Department has received from NHS Supply Chain on the consideration that it gives to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for medical devices when procuring those items. [125358]

Andy Burnham: NHS Supply Chain has informed the NHS Business Service Authority that they place considerable emphasis on National Institute For Health And Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines when evaluating the non-financial aspect of quality in a tender evaluation to ensure that the products they offer are in line with NICE guidance.

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely effect on patient access to new medical technologies of NHS supply chain's decision to designate preferred suppliers for product areas for fixed periods. [125359]

Andy Burnham: NHS supply chain does not operate a preferred suppliers list but will manage the procurement and delivery of in scope products through a formal contracting process in-line with the European Union directives. Procurements undertaken prior to the establishment of NHS supply chain were also governed by the EU directives and contracted in the same way.

Transparency is brought to this process by publication of a procurement calendar identifying all opportunities that are available and open to supplier bids. New opportunities will be added on a regular basis. This calendar is available on the NHS supply chain website at

www.supplychain.nhs.uk.

NHS supply chain actively monitors the progress of new and innovative products and will work with small suppliers to ensure innovative products can be delivered at the best possible price.

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information her Department has received from NHS supply chain about *(a)* how it chooses the products included on its preferred supplier lists and *(b)* how standard prices are set for these products. [125417]

Andy Burnham: The tender process which national health service supply chain use to select which suppliers should be awarded contracts is shown in the table.

Contracting process – steps	*Key activities*
1. Identify customer needs	
A. Product assessment	Customer input/clinical preference determination
	Third-party information
	Manufacturer input
	Knowledge of product management
	New products/innovative technology
B. Market assessment	Validate business opportunity
	Competitive analysis
	Supplier assessment meetings
	Capabilities, technology, breadth of line, value beyond price, strategic direction
C. Customer market research	Quantitative survey (valid sample)
	Key decision-makers
	Preferences/acceptability
	Consider procurement rivers and timescales
	Price/usage
	Supplier comparison
	Input on tender specifications
D. Choose the most appropriate procurement procedure	Consider procurement rivers and timescales
2. Tender development	Finalise decision criteria award matrix
	Follow formal procedures of the tendering process
	Define product line
	Determine final product and performance specifications
	Send to all eligible tenderers
3. Tender analysis	Determine total delivered cost and quality available
	Compare among tender respondents
4. Issue resolution/ clarification	Clarify terms and conditions to tender responses
	Discuss enhancements
	Focus on value for money
	Develop implementation plan
	Finalise supplier agreement
5. Decision making	Determine low best tender based on decision criteria award matrix
	Consider needs, market assessment and market research
	Involve councils, task forces and customers as necessary
	Make award recommendation pending issue resolution
	Notify all tenderers of decision
6. Finalising the award	Finalise supplier agreement
	Prepare executive summary package
	Draft contract summary
	Begin contract approval process
7. Launching the agreement	Notify all tenderers of decision
	Inform customers of decision
	Develop customer-focused marketing and communications plan in collaboration with supplier
	Complete and distribute contract summary to customers and logistics
	Perform sales training and targeting
8. Records retention	Provide legal department with original signed copy of agreement

Standard prices for products are set based on the product cost and a margin applied to these products to cover the operating costs of NHS supply chain. There are restrictions as to how margin can be applied and also restrictions to increases in sell price changes.

NHS: Reform

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to publish further reports on the clinical case for change in the NHS along the lines of those published by *(a)* the National Directors for Heart Disease and Emergency Case on 5 December 2006, *(b)* the National Director for Primary Care on 5 February 2007 and *(c)* the National Director for Maternity and Children's Services on 6 February 2007. [124934]

Andy Burnham: These are personal reports from the national clinical directors. The remaining clinical directors may wish to present their own accounts of the clinical case for change to the Secretary of State in due course.

Obesity: Children

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to tackle childhood obesity. [126730]

Caroline Flint: We are committed to tackling obesity, working in partnership nationally and locally. We have set ourselves a public service agreement target to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children aged under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole.

We have improved the co-ordinated delivery of initiatives that contribute to tackling childhood obesity, including working with Ofcom who have recently announced limits on broadcast advertising and promotion of high fat, salt, sugar foods to children, healthy schools, and the national school sport strategy, influencing the curriculum and standards for early years settings. We have also published care pathways for national health service primary care professionals and a self-help guide for patients to help with weight loss.

Our investments have already delivered improvements, for example, free fruit to nearly 2 million four to six-year-olds at English schools; a reformed scheme for families on benefits that will give them access to free vitamins and a choice of fruit, vegetables or milk; 80 per cent. of schoolchildren now doing at least two hours of school sport a week, beating our own target of 75 per cent. for this year; and three quarters of schools are on the healthy schools programme.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to promote organ donation; and if she will make a statement. [127358]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over 14 million people have registered on the Organ Donor Register (ODR), which represents approximately 23 per cent. of the United Kingdom population. The Department gives around £1 million yearly to NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to run the ODR and to promote transplantation. The Department also provides section 64 grants to a number of charities.

Over the last five years, the Department has provided dedicated funding—over £4 million in 2006-07—through NHSBT to support a number of specific hospital based initiatives to increase organ donor rates and support transplantation

An organ donation task force is currently identifying barriers to organ donation and will report later this year on what further steps could be taken to increase organ donation rates.

Patient Choice Schemes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the *(a)* budgets and *(b)* tariffs of the choose and book initiative were set; and what mechanisms are in place (i) to monitor, (ii) audit and (iii) and assess by (A) primary care trusts and (B) the Department; [123571]

(2) what *(a)* budgets have been set and *(b)* costs have been incurred for the choice and choose and book systems by each (i) primary care trust, (ii) acute trust and (iii) strategic health authority since its implementation. [123746]

Andy Burnham: The setting of local budgets and the monitoring of local costs for the implementation of choice and choose and book is a matter for local determination.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms are in place to assess the value for money achieved by *(a)* Choose and Book, *(b)* Choice and *(c)* whole direct enhanced service system; [123615]

(2) what assessment she has made of *(a)* whether the significant benefits referred to in the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1153-54W, on the choose and book system, have been delivered and *(b)* the value for money provided by the choose and book system. [123759]

Andy Burnham: Work is under way in response to the recommendation in the National Audit Office's June 2006 report "Department of Health: The National Programme for IT in the NHS" that an annual statement be published, quantifying the benefits delivered by all aspects of the programme, set against the costs incurred. The first statement is intended for publication in summer 2007.

A new independent research programme will be established this year to evaluate the impact of health reform, including choice, and feed into future policy development. In addition, regulatory and equality impact assessments are being carried out on choice policy in elective care.

There are no plans for a value for money study in respect of directed enhanced services.

Sunbeds: Licensing

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities have licensing policies covering sunbed use in salons. [124649]

Caroline Flint: There are no central governmental records held on the local authorities that have licensing policies covering sunbed use in salons.

Water

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will commission research into the optimum proportion of the daily recommended intake of fluids which should be taken as water; [124148]

(2) what assessment she has made of the extent to which the public follow the Government's guidelines on how much water to drink; and if she will make a statement. [124149]

Caroline Flint: The Government advise that six to eight glasses (approximately 1.2 litres) of water, or other fluids, should be consumed every day to prevent dehydration. This is based on physiological studies.

The 2000-01 National Diet and Nutrition Survey of adults aged 19-64 years showed that mean consumption of fluid in this age group was around 1.8 litres per day. This includes milk, fruit juice, soft drinks, alcoholic drinks, tea, coffee and water (tap and bottled).

Welfare Milk

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* representations and *(b)* other information she has received on the financial impact on

nurseries and playgroups suffering from delayed payments for reimbursement of the cost of milk from the Welfare Food Reimbursement Unit; [124267]

(2) what value of claims by nurseries or playgroups for reimbursement of the cost of milk from the Welfare Food Reimbursement Unit are awaiting payment; and what the average value was of claims outstanding at any one time in 2006; [124268]

(3) how many claims by nurseries and playgroups for reimbursement of the cost of milk from the Welfare Food Reimbursement Unit are awaiting payment; and how many were awaiting payment at any one time on average in 2006. [124269]

Caroline Flint: On 27 February 2007 there were 5,018 outstanding claims for payment from nurseries and other day care providers relating to milk supplied through the Welfare Food Scheme. The total value of the claims was £1,310,105. Of these, 3,712 (£780,374) were claims for payments to be made by cheque, and the remainder were for payments directly made to bank accounts.

Because of a change in contractor on 1 December 2006, it has taken longer than we would have wished for claims from nurseries and other day care providers to be processed. Those wishing to be paid by cheque have experienced longer delays because the new contractor had to wait for secure cheque stationery to be printed. That stationery has now been printed and the backlog of cheque payments was cleared by 1 March 2007.

Currently, payments in respect of new claims are being made within 15 days of receipt. From 9 March 2007, we expect this to reduce to eight days. Claims that are complicated—usually because not all required information has been provided—take longer to resolve.

Details of the number and value of claims awaiting payment at any one time during 2006 is not available due to the change in contractor.

I have received one representation on behalf of a nursery, concerned about the way with which its outstanding claims were being dealt.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Acute Beds

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from West Hertfordshire NHS Trust on the relocation of acute services. [125253]

Andy Burnham: No such representations have been received.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 March 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Leader of the House how many work permits were applied for by his Department in each of the last five years. [127716]

Mr. Straw: None.

House of Lords: Reform

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Leader of the House what options he has considered for the determination of salaries to elected numbers of a reformed House of Lords. [126876]

Mr. Straw: Paragraph 9.11 of the White Paper said that the recommendations 119-124 and recommendation 126 of the Wakeham Royal Commission would be likely to be "guiding principles" for any changes to the remuneration of Members of the Lords.

Paragraph 10.35 of the White Paper explains that once there are firmer decisions on composition on whether Members of a reformed House should be salaried or receive expenses, the Government will discuss proposals with the other parties and then seek the advice of the Senior Salaries Review Body. Following the votes in the House of Lords on 14 March 2007 on composition of a reformed House, I propose to reconvene the cross-party group, which I chair, to assess the outcome of the debates in both Houses.

Legislation: Reviews

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House (1) if he will make it Government policy for the proposed departmental reviews of legislation to be published; [126949]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to establish a new Parliamentary Joint Committee on post-legislative scrutiny; [126950]

(3) when he expects to publish the Government's response to the Law Commission's report on post-legislative scrutiny. [126952]

Mr. Straw: Recommendations for the establishment of a joint committee on post-legislative scrutiny, and for greater commitment from Government Departments to post-enactment reviews of legislation, are contained in the Law Commission report on Post-legislative Scrutiny (Cm 6945). These and the other recommendations in the report are under active consideration by the Government. A response to the report will be issued in due course.

WALES

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many work permits were applied for by his Department in each of the last five years. [127724]

Mr. Hain: None.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Film

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the names of those invited to her Department's film summit on 12 March. [126819]

Mr. Woodward: To inform the further development of the joint DCMS/DTI Creative Economy Programme, we are holding a number of industry summits. The issues raised at these events will inform the Green Paper we plan to publish in the summer.

The invitation list for the film summit was drawn up following discussions with the UK Film Council. The invitees are:

Invitee	*Title*
Vaishali Malhotra	Eros International
Stewart Till	UKFC Board
Josh Berger	Warner Bros
Laura De Castro	MD, Tartan Films Distribution
Pam Engel	Artificial Eye
Sara Frain	Metrodome
Ian George	MD, Twentieth Century Fox
Alex Hamilton	President, Icon Film Distributors
Chris Hedges	Managing Director, UIP
Simon Hewlett	Managing Director, Universal
Francois Ivernel	Managing Director, Pathe Distribution Ltd
Robert Mitchell	Buena Vista
Richard Mapper	Sony
Sam Nichols	Head of Distribution, Momentum Pictures
Danny Perkins	Marketing Director, Optimum Releasing
Andy Whittaker	MD, Dogwoof Pictures
Tristan Woods-Scawen	Film Manager, Contender Entertainment Group
Nigel Green	Joint MD, Entertainment Film Distributors
Lyn Goleby	City Screen
Sandra Hebron	London Film Festival
Ivan Dunleavy	Pinewood Studios
Mark Batey	CEO, Film Distributors' Association Ltd
Amanda Berry	CEO, BAFTA
Fiona Clarke-Hackston	Director, British Screen Advisory Council
Grace Carley	Managing Director, AIM
Amanda Nevill	Director, British Film Institute
Martin Spence	Acting Assistant General Secretary, BECTU

Invitee	Title
John Wilkinson	CEO, Cinema Exhibitors Association
Tim Willis	PACT
Jeff Alien	Managing Director, Panavision
Mark Benson	CEO, Moving Picture Company
Michael Elson	Deputy MD, Moving Picture Company
Rebecca Hawkes	Managing Director, Schedule 2
Alex Hope	Managing Director, Double Negative
Matthew Holden	CEO, Double Negative
Steve Morris	Chief Executive, CFC Framestore
Dennis Weinreich	Managing Director, Videosonics
Parminder Vir	Ingenious Media/DCMS Board
John Akromfrah	Smoking Dog Films
Andrea Calderwood	Slate films
Nik Powell	National Film and Television School
Douglas Rae	Ecosse Films
Simon Relph	Skreba
Colin Vaines	Miramax
Graham Broadbent	Blueprint Pictures
Barbara Broccoli	Eon Productions
Jonathan Cavendish	Little Bird
Sally Hibbin	Parallax Films
Andrew MacDonald	DNA Films Ltd
Andy Paterson	Archer Street Ltd
Jeremy Thomas	Recorded Picture Company
David Thompson	BBC Films
Barnaby Thompson	Fragile Films
Peter Watson	MD, Recorded Picture Company
Stephen Woolley	Company of Wolves
Andrew Eaton	Revolution Films (UKFC Board)
Alison Owen	Ruby Films (UKFC Board)
Marc Samuelson	Samuelson Productions (UKFC Board)
Tim Bevan	Producer, Working Title
Duncan Kenworthy	Producer, DMA Films Ltd
Michael Lynton	Chairman/CEO, Sony Pictures Entertainment
Lord David Puttnam	Producer, Enigma Productions
Eric Fellner	Working Title
Cameron McCracken	Pathe Pictures
Jane Barclay	Capitol Films
Michael Kuhn	Qwerty Films
Caroline Norbury	Chief Executive, South West Screen
Debbie Williams	Chief Executive, EM - Media
Adrian Wootton	Chief Executive, Film London
Joy Wong	The Works
Gaynor Davenport	Chief Executive, UKPost and Services
Steve Harris	Federation of Entertainment Unions
Dinah Caine	Skillset
Janine Marmot	Skillset
Ian Wall	Film Education
Tessa Ross	Channel 4 Television
Colin Brown	British Film Commissioner, UKFC
Steve Knibbs	COO, Vue Entertainment
Anthony Minghella	Film Director
Rebecca O'Brien	Producer, Sixteen Films
Heather Rabbatts CBE	Chief Executive, Millwall Football Club
Iain Smith	Film Producer
David Sproxton	Producer, Aardman Animations
John Woodward	Chief Executive, UKFC
Sian Brereton	NPL
Jane Wright	Head of Rights, BBC
Isabel Begg	Head of Business, BBC
Andrew Smith	Pinewood Shepperton
Jonathan Olsberg	Olsberg SPI
Paul Trijbits	Ruby Films

Gaming Clubs

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what independent evidence on social impact was requested by the Casino Advisory Panel. [126744]

Mr. Lammy: The primary consideration for the Casino Advisory Panel was to identify areas which would provide the best possible test of social impact.

The panel commissioned one piece of research work to provide background that would assist in the scoping phase of the panel's work. This is titled "Casinos: Social Impact and Regeneration", and is available on the panel's website at:

www.culture.gov.uk/cap

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which sites other than Woolwich have been considered as the potential venue for shooting events for the London Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [127446]

Mr. Lammy: The Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich was agreed as the venue for the Olympic and Paralympic shooting events in 2012 following feedback from the International Olympic Committee to the London Bid organisers on the original venue portfolio submitted in 2004. The original proposal was for the National Shooting Centre, Bisley, but the decision was taken to move to Woolwich in order to provide a more compact games that allowed athletes to train and compete within 30 minutes travel time of the Village. The Great Britain Target Shooting Federation and International Shooting Federation (ISSF) were involved in the decisions about the venue for games shooting competitions.

Tote

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received on the sale of the Tote; and if she will make a statement. [127516]

Mr. Caborn: The Government have received and are considering a bid for the Tote from a consortium of racing interests and the staff and management of the Tote itself. The Government will announce how they intend to proceed in due course.

TV Licence

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a person who owns a black and white television set and a digital set-top box needs to purchase a colour television licence. [101365]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 14 December 2006]:* Interpretation of television licence fee regulations is a matter for the BBC as television licensing authority. The Corporation has confirmed its view that, under the current regulations, a colour TV licence is required to install or use a digital set top box to receive television programme services, even if it is used only with a black and white television set The Government accept the Corporation's legal interpretation on this point.

The Government believe that the option of a black and white television licence should remain available through digital switchover. The licence fee regulations laid before Parliament on 8 March 2007 and due to come into effect on 1 April, will include provisions to ensure that a digital set top box used in conjunction with a television set or monitor that can display images in black and white only can be covered by a black and white TV licence.

VisitBritain: Internet

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of developing Eviivo, the online booking system used by the VisitBritain website; and how many bookings were taken through this system in the first year of its operation. [126884]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain's websites do not operate an online booking system.

Through EnglandNet, VisitBritain offers an online referral service. This enables users of VisitBritain's websites to check availability and pricing of accommodation through existing commercial operators, and then refers them to those operators for completion of bookings.

The technology which powers VisitBritain's EnglandNet online referral service was built by Agilisys and they continue to provide technical services to the project. Eviivo, an associated company of Agilisys, developed the polling technology used by EnglandNet, which is licensed to VisitBritain through Agilisys.

Including the appropriate apportioned project cost elements, the total expenditure on the development of the EnglandNet online referral service has been estimated at approximately £450,000.

EnglandNet is not measured by the number of bookings. However VisitBritain has monitored referrals. Between April 2006 and the end of January 2007, 10,096 referrals were made to commercial operators, with a potential business value of £2,312,590.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bicycles: Parking

Emily Thornberry: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 627W, on bicycle parking, which outside security advisers were consulted; and what advice they provided. [126632]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons does not reveal the sources of external advice it relies on for security. The advice provided was that allowing visitors to bring bicycles onto the Estate would heighten the security risk to the Parliamentary Estate.

Energy Usage

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to his answer of 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 147W, what percentage of energy used on the parliamentary estate was derived from renewable resources in each year; and what targets there are for the future use of such energy. [120473]

Nick Harvey: Since 1 October 2003, approximately 10 per cent. of electricity consumed on the parliamentary estate derived from renewable sources. 10 per cent. of the electricity consumed expressed as a percentage of total energy used on the parliamentary estate in each year since 2003 is given as follows.

	Percentage
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	5.0
2005-06	4.8

[1]Purchase of electricity from renewable sources started during 2003-04

The House has instructed its supplier to provide 100 per cent. of its electricity from renewable sources from 1 April 2007.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Opium

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many hectares of poppy crop in Afghanistan have been eradicated since January 2006; how many hectares have been sprayed; what aid has been paid to poppy farmers; which provinces have been covered by spraying; how many farmers have been offered an alternative crop to plant; and how many farmers have begun to plant an alternative crop. [126705]

Hilary Benn: The UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) records that 15,301 hectares of poppy crop was eradicated across Afghanistan in 2006, with 95.8 per cent. of the eradication occurring after January 2006. In 2007, some 7,112 hectares of poppy have been eradicated to date. No Afghan province has been covered by spraying. The Government of Afghanistan (GoA) decided, after wide consultation and internal discussion, against the use of ground-based and aerial spraying on opium poppy crops this year.

No direct aid has been given to opium farmers who have had their fields eradicated as this would be contrary to the GoA policy. The policy of the Afghanistan Government is to target eradication on areas where alternative livelihoods already exist. Therefore only those farmers who have alternatives will experience poppy eradication. In support of the GoA's National Drug Control Strategy (NCDS), the UK is playing a major role in supporting the development of legal livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan. DFID's Livelihood Programme is worth £150 million over three years, the majority of which is channelled through

three National Priority Programmes which address the multiple constraints that prevent farmers from moving away from poppy cultivation.

DFID's support for the National Rural Access Programme (NRAP) is helping to build essential infrastructure such as irrigation schemes, roads and bridges. This provides much needed infrastructure for economic development and also construction jobs for Afghans at the same time. DFID gave £18 million in 2005-06 for this purpose. Nearly 9,500 km of roads have been built or repaired, as well as schools, health clinics and water schemes. So far the programme has generated over 15 million days of labour.

DFID's support for the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) is helping local communities through elected community development councils (CDC's) identify what development is most needed in their areas and then receive grants to undertake the work. DFID is providing £17 million to support NSP which has established over 16,000 CDCs across Afghanistan and funded over 22,000 projects in the areas of agriculture, education, health, irrigation, power supply, transport and water supply.

DFID support to the Micro-Finance Investment Support Facility of Afghanistan (MISFA) is helping Afghans to invest in income-generating activities and increase their savings. DFID is providing £20 million over three years to help give small loans of around £100 to the poor, including farmers, who cannot get credit from banks. So far, over £90 million worth of loans have been given to over 230,000 Afghans including farmers, shopkeepers, tailors and builders.

DFID has established a £3 million Research in Alternative Livelihoods Fund (RALF) in Afghanistan for applied research into natural resource-based livelihoods. The programme is looking at improved forage and milk production, the introduction of legumes, vegetable crops and saffron, and the medicinal properties of mint as viable alternatives to poppy production for farmers. Mint and saffron are showing early signs of success. The export feasibility of grapes, tomatoes, mushrooms and eggplants is also being examined. This also includes natural products, and post-harvest processing and rural services.

In addition, DFID funds the Development of Sustainable Agriculture Livelihoods Project in the Eastern Hazarajat (SALEH) which provides new and innovative ways for farmers to make a living in Eastern Hazarajat e.g. honey bee keeping and potato farming.

Afghan farmers often make their living through a combination of activities. These may change throughout the year, and include agriculture (crops and livestock); employment (migrant labour); remittances (from family members working away from home); and welfare (for vulnerable groups not able to work). DFID therefore supports a wide range of activities to help farmers move away from poppy cultivation and adopt alternative forms of livelihoods.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the UK gives to the purchase of seed and fertiliser for Afghan farmers; and if he will make a statement. [127066]

Hilary Benn: In 2005 DFID contributed £3 million towards a USAID Agriculture Inputs Supply Programme worth $25 million. This programme helped poor and vulnerable farmers across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan gain improved access to subsidised agricultural inputs in order to increase their production of legal crops. The programme has distributed 40,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser and nearly 15,000 tonnes of seed (wheat, potato, onion and carrots) to 537,000 farmers in all 34 provinces.

DFID and USAID found the programme could be made sustainable into the longer-term by supporting input supplies and offering farmers access to credit. USAID now has an input supply programme and DFID is a major donor to the Micro-Finance Investment Support Facility of Afghanistan (MISFA). This offers small loans to poor people, including farmers, who would otherwise not have access to credit. DFID is providing £20 million to MISFA over a three year period.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian aid was successfully delivered to Afghanistan in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [126070]

Hilary Benn: According to the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the following has been contributed to the humanitarian effort in Afghanistan over the last three years.

	USD $
2004	162,366,273
2005	79,906,460
2006	153,181,425

DFID's programme in Afghanistan has gradually shifted from humanitarian assistance in the immediate post-conflict environment (£44 million in 2001) to longer-term, sustainable development support to the Government of Afghanistan. We now focus on three key areas; building effective state institutions; improving economic management and the effectiveness with which the Afghan Government uses aid; and improving the livelihoods of rural people.

This year DFID has is providing £1 million for drought mitigation, to fund NGOs working with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) on water and sanitation projects in the most affected areas. DFID has also provided £30,000 in food aid and other essential items for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Helmand. The UN has estimated that around 2,800 families have been displaced. UK officials are monitoring the situation and we are currently assured that basic needs are being met.

DFID also supports HALO's de-mining programme in Afghanistan, worth £1.2 million in 2006-07.

Departments: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many independent bodies existed to hear appeals on decisions made by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many there have been in 2006-07 to date. [121689]

Mr. Thomas: No independent bodies hear appeals on decisions made by DFID and its executive agencies.

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints were received by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have been received in 2006-07 to date. [121698]

Mr. Thomas: DFID operates five complaints mechanisms, available through its website. The information for each is as follows:

1. The public enquiry point deals with a wide range of enquiries. No data are held on what proportion of these are complaints.

2. Freedom of Information issues: since the Freedom of Information Act came into force in 2005, we received 26 requests for internal reviews in 2005-06 and 12 in 2006-07 to date.

3. Overseas pensions issues: we received no complaints in 2005-06 or 2006-07 to date. Data are unavailable for previous years.

4. Recruitment issues: no data are held on the number of complaints.

5. Procurement issues: no data were held prior to 2005; in 2005-06 there were three complaints and in 2006-07 to date there has been one complaint.

Developing Countries: Children

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of displaced children in developing countries. [127425]

Hilary Benn: DFID has not made such an assessment. When assessing humanitarian and development needs, we rely on data from organisations which are best placed to collect and collate them. In this case, the closest figure from available data is from UNICEF, who estimate that there are 20 million children currently displaced by armed conflict or human rights violations.

Iraq: Utilities

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate his Department has made of the proportion of the Iraqi population that has access to *(a)* safe and stable drinking water and *(b)* a stable electricity supply. [127154]

Hilary Benn: The most recent reliable data available for water supplies in Iraq come from the Iraq living conditions survey carried out in 2004 by the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme.

The 2004 UN survey found that in urban areas, 99 per cent. of households have access to safe drinking water (but for 33 per cent. the supply is unreliable). In rural areas, 6 per cent. of households have access to safe drinking water (but for 22 per cent. the supply is unreliable). Since 2003, donors (including DFID) have worked hard to restore supplies. As a result, the US Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO) estimates that an additional 5.4 million Iraqis have improved access to drinking water.

IRMO estimate that electricity generation since July 2006 has fluctuated between 3,000 megawatts (MW) and 5,350 MW. The average for 2006 was 4,400 MW, just above the pre-2003 level. During the week of 1-7 March, electricity availability averaged just under six hours per day in Baghdad, 12 hours in Basra and 16 hours in Nasiriyah.

Although 5,000 MW have been added to the national grid since 2003, electricity generation in Iraq is not meeting demand. This is due to several reasons: old and dilapidated infrastructure; a result of years of under-investment and mismanagement; shortage of fuel supplies; and sabotage of key facilities. Furthermore, demand has increased considerably to over 9,000 MW, with the influx of electrical goods such as refrigerators, televisions and air conditioning units.

Mauritania: Food Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of reports from the United Nations World Food Programme on the supply of food to children in Mauritania; and whether the Government plans to contribute food to Mauritania. [126684]

Hilary Benn: In 2006-07, DFID has contributed £250,000 through the World Food Programme (WFP) to support feeding activities for 50,000 malnourished children and vulnerable mothers in the badly affected agro-pastoral zone in the south east of the country.

DFID is continuing to monitor the humanitarian situation in Mauritania and the other countries in the Sahel closely, and will maintain its flexible humanitarian support to short-term emergency, recovery and mitigation needs over the coming year. Simultaneously, DFID is providing support to tackle longer-term nutritional vulnerability in the region, as well as exploring longer-term options for improving food security. We have recently agreed to provide £1.5 million through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) over the next three years to improve infant feeding practices in six Sahelian countries; Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Benin.

North Korea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the announcement by the North Korean Government of its decision to abandon its nuclear weapons programme has had an effect on the level of UK humanitarian assistance in North Korea. [127338]

Mr. Thomas: There is no change to the UK policy on humanitarian assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We have never provided such aid bilaterally. We contribute as normal to the current EU programme of humanitarian assistance. Since 1995, around €118 million has been allocated to assist the most vulnerable groups of the population. Humanitarian assistance was provided to cover the immediate needs of flood-affected populations, to address food/nutritional problems, improve access to water as well as health care. The programme is expected to end in May 2008.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of internally displaced persons in Sudan. [122945]

Hilary Benn: In total, there are approximately four million people displaced in Sudan. Of these, over two million are in Darfur and a further two million who remain displaced as a result of the previous North-South conflict. Around 500,000 of these are expected to return to South Sudan and the Three Areas (former front-line areas) in 2007. They will join an estimated one million people who have already returned to the South since January 2004. There are also around 70,000 people displaced in the East as a result of the now-ended conflict there.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate his Department has made of the numbers of internally-displaced people in Darfur. [127150]

Hilary Benn: The UN estimates that there are currently over two million people displaced in Darfur. However, the exact number of displaced people is difficult to ascertain as many parts of Darfur are highly insecure and inaccessible. This is further compounded as some displaced people have been forced to move for a second or even a third time.

USA: Corruption

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the government of the United States on tackling corruption. [126930]

Hilary Benn: DFID staff meet regularly with their counterparts from the USA. The key contact is with staff from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) but there are also frequent meetings with staff from the United States Department of Justice and State Department.

At Head Office level, in addition to one-to-one discussions, DFID staff and American staff work closely on the Anti-Corruption Task Team of the OECD Development Assistance Committee and on the expert groups to advise on the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

At a country level DFID and USAID work closely together on donor working groups on corruption and governance in countries such as Zambia and Yemen.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the profit-sharing scheme between HM Treasury and Annington Homes for sales of former Ministry of Defence housing and land includes provisions to take account of increases in the value of land due to *(a)* planning zone changes and *(b)* private development. [121133]

Derek Twigg: The Profit Share Agreement with Annington Homes Ltd (AHL) does not define "planning zone changes". However, the position is that even if AHL has not disposed of land by 2011, should planning permission has been granted on land, it will be assumed to have been sold and the market value will be established on that basis at the time.

There are no provisions relating specifically to private development, but any increase in the value of the land (for whatever reason) will be directly passed to the Ministry of Defence.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to change the future rapid effect system programme; and if he will make a statement. [124987]

Mr. Ingram: The Department reviewed the future rapid effect system (FRES) programme in 2006 to take account of our experience on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and in the light of recent developments in vehicle technology and protection systems. This review aimed to ensure we deliver the best possible vehicles able to meet the operational needs of the British Army through life.

The review also covered aspects of the procurement strategy, highlighting the need for an open systems architecture and the vital importance of UK residence for intellectual property underpinning the FRES systems. This point was praised by the House of Commons Defence Committee in their report entitled 'The Army's requirement for armoured fighting vehicles: the FRES programme' published on 21 February 2007.

This review was completed last year. The procurement strategy has now been announced and we are now making rapid progress on the FRES programme with candidate vehicle designs undergoing proving trials this summer and the winning vehicle(s) selected by November 2007 to proceed to the next stage. It is essential to carry out this detailed assessment of the candidate vehicle designs and to drive out programme risk before the major investment decision is taken. Wednesday 14 March

Ballistic Missile Defence: USA

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first informed that *(a)* the US planned to use its Satellite Based Infra Red System (SBIRS) at Fylingdales to provide critical data for national missile defence systems and *(b)* SBIRS was key to the US's ability to cue systems that would be used for active missile defence; and if he will make a statement. [126848]

Des Browne: There are no plans to use RAF Fylingdales as part of the Space Based Infra Red System (SBIRS). The role of SBIRS in the US ballistic missile defence system has been well understood by the UK for a number of years.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which sites in the UK are being considered for the possible deployment of US missiles for the US Missile Defense system. [126934]

Mr. Ingram: No sites in the UK are presently under consideration as possible locations for a ground based interceptor site.

Clyde Submarine Base: Ambulance Services

John McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the reasons are for the change in the extent of ambulance cover at HM Naval Base Clyde; [126082]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on health and safety of the change in the extent of ambulance cover at HM Naval Base Clyde; and if he will make a statement. [126083]

Mr. Ingram: The Scottish Ambulance Service provides cover at HMNB Clyde, which is currently augmented by full time on-site cover. The provision of ambulance cover at HMNB Clyde was reviewed last year as part of a base initiative to consider how best to reduce costs without affecting outputs. The proposed changes involve a cessation of on-site cover at weekends and Bank holidays. These arrangements are consistent with national and military guidelines, which recommend that an initial response to a serious life threatening incident should be provided within eight minutes.

Courts Martial

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* instructions he issued to (i) the army prosecuting authority and (ii) unit commanders following receipt of the Attorney-General's letter on prosecutions of members of the armed forces dated 23 March 2005. [122278]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 22 February 2007]:* The Attorney-General and the Secretary of State have corresponded about issues relating to military justice.

The army prosecuting authority is an independent prosecuting authority under the general superintendence of the Attorney-General. It would have been inappropriate for there to have been correspondence between the Secretary of State and the APA concerning its responsibilities relating to particular cases referred to it under the Army Act 1955, and there has been none. Nor have any instructions been issued by or on behalf of the Secretary of State to the APA, to unit commanders, or to anyone else with responsibility for the investigation or prosecution of offences.

Defence: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the change in defence spending in *(a)* real and *(b)* actual terms was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [124594]

Mr. Ingram: This information was published in HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, CM6811, in May 2006 a copy of which is in the Library of the House and is available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Departments: Assets

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which fixed assets his Department sold for more than £50,000 in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; and what the (i) sale value, (ii) purchaser and (iii) date of sale was of each asset. [120693]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 29 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 27W and 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 620W for information about non-property assets.

I will place in the Library of the House a list of those sales of over £50,000, including the month of sale. I am unable to provide sale values as we are unable to assess the potential commercial interests of the large number of buyers without incurring disproportionate cost. Details of purchasers are not held centrally and could be provided at disproportionate cost only.

Ex-servicemen

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people *(a)* are eligible for and *(b)* have applied for the UK armed forces veterans lapel badge in (i) the UK and (ii) Cheadle constituency. [121027]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has insufficient information to make an accurate assessment of the number of people entitled to HM armed forces veterans lapel badge but estimate that the total number is around five million.

Between May 2004 and 17 April 2005 some 82,000 badges were issued but detailed records of applications were not kept. Between 18 April 2005 and 9 February 2007 a further 337,387 applications have been received and 313,099 badges issued.

Information is not held on applicants' addresses by parliamentary constituency and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I can state that 237 badges have been sent to individuals giving Cheadle as their address.

Hyper-sonic Mass Technology

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of hyper-sonic mass technology in the Defence Industrial Strategy. [126141]

Mr. Ingram: Hyper-sonic mass technology is identified briefly in section B11 of the Defence Industrial Strategy, published December 2005, but further clarification is contained within section B7 of the Defence Technology Strategy, published October 2006. Copies of both strategies are available in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the design advantages of *(a)* a flat bottomed vehicle and *(b)* positioning the driver over a front wheel when considering the protection of British armed forces on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. [127020]

Mr. Ingram: I will not comment on specific levels of protection for reasons of operational security.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British troops will be protected from vertically impacting indirect fire when all are accommodated at Basra air base. [127022]

Mr. Ingram: There is currently a substantial level of protection against mortar and rocket fire afforded to troops at Basra air station, and which has already saved lives. The MOD is continuing to invest in further improvements.

Development of appropriate measures (equipment, vehicles and infrastructure) to best protect our troops is a dynamic and constantly evolving process to keep ahead of the threat. Improved countermeasures, tactics and intelligence are continually being developed and the MOD has invested huge amounts (over half a billion pounds across all theatres) in force protection over recent years.

It would be inappropriate to specify in detail much of this work in the interests of operational security.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests from Iraqi authorities have been received by British forces to re-intervene in *(a)* Muthanna and *(b)* Dhi Qar since the handover of security responsibility to the Iraqis in each of these provinces. [127157]

Mr. Ingram: British Forces have not received any requests from Iraqi authorities to re-intervene in Muthanna or Dhi Qar since the handover of security responsibility to the Iraqis in these provinces.

Land: Contamination

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instructions have been given by Defence Estates to his Department's agents Drivers Jonas on the disposal of contaminated sites and interpretation of Treasury advice to obtain best value. [126745]

Derek Twigg: The disposal instructions given by Defence Estates to its agents will vary from case to case, but generally require the property to be sold with the benefit of relevant marketing material, including an information pack, land quality assessment and planning position statement. In accordance with Treasury and departmental guidelines, the property will normally be sold through open competition, either through a formal tender, or informal tender or auction, unless it is required by another Government Department or public body or there are former owner (Crichel Down) considerations.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average age is of Nimrod aircraft in the UK fleet. [126590]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 985W to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone).

Peace Keeping Operations: Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current establishment level is working with UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and what the future establishment is likely to be. [126967]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The UK currently has six military officers working in the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including the post of chief of staff in the Eastern division in Kisangani. We have no plans to change our contribution, but would consider any requests to do so, should the UN declare a review of itr commitment at some future point.

Red Arrows

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* recruitment to and *(b)* morale of the RAF of maintaining the Red Arrows. [127004]

Des Browne: No specific study has been undertaken to assess the effect on recruitment and morale of maintaining the Royal Air Force Acrobatic Team, popularly known as the Red Arrows. That said, many potential recruits mention that one of the motivating factors for their interest in joining the RAF is the Red Arrows.

Warships: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the 28 new ships referred to by the Minister for the armed forces on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 660, as having joined the fleet since 1997, together with the dates on which each of them *(a)* was ordered and *(b)* joined the fleet. [126228]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 12 March 2007]*: Details of vessels taken into service since 1997 are as follows:

In-service date	*Year ordered*	*Description*
1997	1992	Type 23 Frigate, Sutherland
	1992	Type 23 Frigate, Grafton
	1995	Survey Ship, Scott
1998	1993	Landing Platform Helicopter, Ocean
	1995	Sandown Class Single Role Mine Hunter, Penzance, Pembroke
	1996	Inshore Patrol Vessel, Tracker, Raider
1999	1992	Vanguard Class Nuclear Submarine, Vengeance
	1995	Sandown Class Single Role Mine Hunter, Grimsby
2000	1996	Type 23 Frigate, Kent
	1995	Sandown Class Single Role Mine Hunter, Bangor, Ramsey

In-service date	Year ordered	Description
2001	1996	Type 23 Frigate, Portland
	1995	Sandown Class Single Role Mine Hunter, Blyth
2002	1996	Type 23 Frigate, St Albans
	1995	Sandown Class Single Role Mine Hunter, Shoreham
2003	1996	Landing Platform Dock, Albion
	2001	River Class Patrol Vessel, Tyne, Severn, Mersey
	2000	Survey Ship, Echo, Enterprise
	1997	Auxiliary, Wave Knight, Wave Ruler
2004	—	None
2005	1996	Landing Platform Dock, Bulwark
2006	2000	Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary), Mounts Bay, Largs Bay, Cardigan Bay

The total number of vessels that have entered service since 1997 now stands at 29, following the acceptance into service of RFA Cardigan Bay in December 2006.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Avian Influenza: Halton

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who paid the catchers of the H5N1 infected turkeys at Halton; and what *(a)* briefing and *(b)* instructions they were given prior to undertaking that task. [126244]

Mr. Bradshaw: The majority of catchers used at Holton were either employees of, or contracted to, Bernard Matthews. In addition to these individuals, a team of catchers directly contracted to my Department, but working under the supervision of Bernard Matthews were deployed to the site on Sunday 4 February. Their briefing and instructions covered health and safety, biosecurity and animal welfare considerations.

The State Veterinary Service (SVS) supervised the catching and culling operation.

The Health Protection Unit was fully engaged with human health risk assessments for SVS staff, farm workers and those involved in the control operation. As a precautionary measure, those involved in disease control were offered the appropriate preventive treatment with antiviral drugs (oseltamivir), seasonal flu vaccine and avian influenza personnel protective equipment, in line with established protocols.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timescale is for the development of a new strategy on bovine tuberculosis. [126284]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 'Government strategic framework for the sustainable control of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in Great Britain' was published in March 2005 with the aim of bringing about a sustainable improvement in the control of bTB over a 10 year timeframe. In accordance with the strategic framework, the Government are working in partnership with interested organisations to reduce bTB by tailoring policies to reflect regional variation in disease risk and emerging evidence.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what change there has been in the incidence of TB in the badger population in the last 12 months; [126598]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of change in the incidence of TB in the badger population on the incidence of TB in cattle. [126599]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 March 2007, *Official Report* columns 2005-06W.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of bovine tuberculosis testing on small scale sales of livestock, including auction marts; [127455]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the cost of tuberculosis testing of farms with small numbers of livestock. [127456]

Mr. Bradshaw: The impact of pre-movement testing on livestock markets and small herd owners was considered in a regulatory impact assessment (RIA), which is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/pdf/prmt-regulatory.pdf

I have arranged for copies of this document to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Options are available to obviate the need for pre-movement testing. Exempt markets and exempt finishing units provide a route for moving and marketing cattle that normally should be pre-movement tested without being tested. Herd owners can also discuss with their local Animal Health Divisional Office the possibility of utilising their routine surveillance test as pre-movement tests by moving it forward to coincide with the time of year that they make their peak cattle movements.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to improve the management of private vets in their undertaking of state-funded tuberculosis testing since the DNV Consulting report on veterinary surgeons within the Meat Hygiene Service. [126237]

Mr. Bradshaw: Staff from the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) do not carry out TB testing on live cattle. The DNV consulting report, "Review of TB Testing", considered testing by local veterinary inspectors and staff within the State Veterinary Service (SVS) only.

A CD-rom training package is being prepared for use by all veterinary surgeons undertaking TB testing, which will be rolled out shortly. The instructions for carrying out the test have also been revised. The management of

private veterinary surgeons in relation to TB testing is being reviewed as part of the "Official Veterinarian" Reform programme. The aim of this programme is to create a more formal relationship with the practitioner in terms of quality assurance etcetera. A pilot is due to start next month.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of allowances under the UK national allocation plan of the EU Emissions Trading scheme he plans to be *(a)* auctioned, *(b)* sold without auction and *(c)* distributed free to account holders in the Emissions Trading Registry under (i) the first phase of the scheme and (ii) the second phase of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [125286]

Ian Pearson: The EU Emissions Trading scheme directive requires 95 per cent. of allowances to be allocated for free in Phase I and 90 per cent. of allowances to be allocated for free in Phase II.

The UK's Phase I National Allocation plan (NAP) states that we intend to sell or auction any surplus allowances remaining in the new entrant reserve (NER). The original NER consisted of 6.3 per cent. of the total allocation and most of this has now been allocated, so the UK has been able to quantify the surplus available for auction or sale. On 23 February, DEFRA announced that we would sell some surplus allowances through brokers. The exact number of allowances to be sold is market sensitive information.

The UK's Phase II NAP states that we will auction 7 per cent. of allowances plus any surplus NER and allowances from closures. Should the total which makes up this "auctioning pot" reach more than 10 per cent. we will cancel allowances so that we don't exceed the maximum allowed in Phase II. "Auction" encompasses sale, auction and any other routes to market for charge. The route to market will be dependent on market conditions. We expect to hold the first Phase II auction early on in this phase.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what controls are imposed on imported food from countries where foot and mouth disease has existed in the last five years. [124983]

Mr. Bradshaw: Before a third country is approved to export to the European Union (EU), the exporting country must have:

(i) an acceptable disease status

(ii) a recognised standard for relevant control authorities

(iii) guarantees with regard to compliance with EU import rules; and

(iv) results of European Commission missions to the country.

All meat imported from third countries must be accompanied by veterinary certification. This must confirm that the meat is derived from animals that have been subjected to a veterinary inspection during the 24 hour period prior to slaughter and showed no signs of foot and mouth disease. The meat must enter the UK at designated border inspection posts, where it is subject to veterinary inspections.

All consignments are subject to documentary and identity checks and at least 20 per cent. of consignments undergo physical checks by an official veterinary surgeon. These measures ensure import conditions are met and that the products remain in a satisfactory condition during transport.

Meat imported from other member states is not checked at the frontier, but is subject to random checks at the point of destination.

If there is an outbreak of disease likely to present a risk to human or animal health, Community legislation allows us to take appropriate safeguard action, which may include a ban on imports of meat from all, or parts, of that country.

National Coastwatch Institute

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department makes use of information gathered by the National Coastwatch Institute as part of its work assessing coastal shores. [126199]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency value the contribution the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) make in informing Her Majesty's Coastguard about any potential or actual incidents relating to safety at sea and on the coast. The Coastguard will take appropriate action in response to reports of people in difficulty received from the NCI.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not use information gathered by the NCI as part of its work in assessing coastal shores.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to protect the marine environment; and if he will make a statement. [127356]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The Government's vision for the marine environment is for clean healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. To help deliver this vision we are acting internationally, at European level and at home.

Internationally we have been instrumental in setting a timetable to end destructive high seas bottom trawling. In Europe we have engaged with new initiatives from the Commission and worked hard to see an acceptable political agreement on the Marine Strategy Directive last December. Domestically we have recently announced the licensing of several offshore windfarms which, while ensuring environmental impacts are properly taken into account, together will make a major contribution to provision of renewable energy.

The forthcoming Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, and c.) Regulations 2007 will meet the UK's obligations to transpose the Birds and Habitats Directive

in the offshore marine area. We are also preparing a new Marine Bill. This will put in place a better system for delivering sustainable development of our marine environment, addressing both the use and protection of our marine resources.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Equal Opportunities

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to implement the gender equality duty due to come into force on 6 April 2007. [120639]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office is part of the Department for Constitutional Affairs and I would refer the hon. Member to the replies given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harman), on 19 February, *Official Report*, cols. 291 and 292W.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that it and related bodies are in compliance with the gender equality duty in the Equality Act 2006 by the April 2007 deadline. [120987]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office is part of the Department for Constitutional Affairs and I would refer the hon. Member to the replies given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harman), on 19 February, *Official Report*, cols. 291 and 292W.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has *(a)* a gender strategy and *(b)* a gender equality action plan in place. [125503]

David Cairns *[holding answer 6 March 2007]:* The Scotland Office is part of the Department for Constitutional Affairs and I would refer my hon. Friend to the replies given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harman), on 19 February, *Official Report*, cols. 291 and 292W.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in (i) his Department and (ii) each agency of the Department in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [123868]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

The Office does not operate staff exit schemes. All staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from the Department of Constitutional Affairs or from the Scottish Executive and it is these Departments who would have operated any such schemes.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many work permits were applied for by his Department in each of the last five years. [127714]

David Cairns: None.

Scottish Parliament: Elections

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the use of powers in the draft Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007. [125230]

David Cairns: The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007 is made under sections 12 (1) and 113 of the Scotland Act 1998. The Order makes provision for the conduct of elections for, and the return of members to, the Scottish Parliament.

Both Houses agreed the provisions of the Order in their debates on the Order on 7 March.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children: Day Care

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average cost is of child care for *(a)* school aged and *(b)* pre-school children in each region, including London. [122957]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not hold data on the average weekly costs of child care. However the findings of a recent survey by the Daycare Trust can be found on their website;

www.daycaretrust.org.uk

We are doing more than ever before to make good quality child care and early education accessible and affordable. We are providing substantial help (over £2 million a day) through the tax credit system to over 395,000 lower and middle income families. The free, early education entitlement gives 12.5 hours of free provision per week to all 3 and 4-year-olds.

London has higher child care costs than elsewhere and that is why we are contributing £11 million funding to a £33 million joint Greater London Authority, London Development Agency and DfES three year Childcare Affordability Pilot to provide 10,000 affordable child care places for lower income families.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many child care places are provided by *(a)* children's centres, *(b)* daycare nurseries, *(c)* neighbourhood nurseries, *(d)* wraparound schools, *(e)* childminders and *(f)* nannies. [127036]

Beverley Hughes: The available information on the number of registered child care places for children under eight is shown in the table.

Table 1 Number [1,2] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care England—Position at 31 March 2006

Type of care	Number of places
Full day care	565,700
Sessional day care	217,100
Childminders	322,200
Out of school day care	366,500
Creche day care	46,300

[1] Rounded to the nearest 100 places.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted

These figures include the number of child care places in Neighbourhood Nurseries and Children's Centres which are not available separately.

Information on the number of child care places provider by nannies is not available. However, the Survey of Parents Demand for Childcare and Early Years Services suggests that 1 per cent. of families used nannies in the last week 2004/05.

The latest figures on registered child care provider and places are available on the following website:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills from which private companies staff in his Department have been seconded. [109570]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department currently has a total of 81 secondments, the vast majority of which are from across the wider public sector, for example, from local authorities, education providers and county councils. There are currently two secondments from the private sector, one from the Building Research Establishment and the other from the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the departmental publications printed since 1997 covering *(a)* gender, *(b)* disability and *(c)* minority personnel issues; how many pages each comprised; how many pages of the document each occupied; and if he will place copies of each in the Library. [107200]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in (i) his Department and (ii) each agency of the Department in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [123931]

Mr. Dhanda: There have been no redundancies in the Department since 1997 and we remain committed to minimise recourse to compulsory redundancies. Nonetheless, there have been voluntary early releases. From the 1997-98 financial year to the end of the 2006-07 financial year the total cost to the Department, arising from the provisions of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, were as follows:

Financial year	Total cost to DfES (£ million)
1997-98	5.13
1998-99	2.73
1999-2000	4.237
2000-01	4.06
2001-02	6.142
2002-03	5.57
2003-04	2.54
2004-05	17.1
2005-06	15.1
2006-07	10.553

For the financial year 2007-08, the Department has committed £2.591 million for voluntary early releases and there is currently nothing further planned.

The Department has had no agencies since 2001 and agency information for the financial years 1997 to 2001 is not held centrally.

Education Maintenance Allowance: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands have received an educational maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [119583]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate education maintenance allowances (EMA) for the DfES and hold the information about take-up of the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Rob Wye, dated 2 March 2007:

I write on behalf of Mark Haysom as he is currently out of the office on annual leave. In response to your Parliamentary Question 119583 that asked; "How many people in (a) Coventry and (b) the West Midlands have received a educational maintenance allowance"

By the end of January 2007, 3,579 young people in the Coventry Local Authority area had applied, enrolled and received one or more Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payments during the 2006/07 academic year.

By the end of January 2007, 60,688 young people in the West Midlands had applied, enrolled and received one or more EMA payments during the 2006/07 academic year.

English Language

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what modifications he plans to make to his announced changes to English for Speakers of Other Languages provision; and if he will make a statement. [127631]

Bill Rammell: I have considered the impact of the proposed changes to ESOL funding as part of the Race Equality Impact Assessment (REIA) and I am minded to consider a range of new measures in addition to those the LSC previously announced on 18 October 2007 to reprioritise funding towards the most vulnerable. These are:

Re-instating eligibility for those asylum seekers who are in the UK legally and whose claims are not resolved within six months;

Re-instating eligibility for those asylum seekers who are unable to return or be returned to their country of origin for circumstances beyond their control and who are eligible for Section 4 support;

Prioritising funding at local level through the Learning and Skills Council's Learner Hardship Support Fund towards support for spouses and individuals who may not have access to their household benefit documentation or their own funds; and

Agreeing with the Learning and Skills Council an approach to evidencing low pay for fee remission purposes which enables flexible use of a raft of evidence, including wider benefits and other evidence.

I have asked officials to work with the Learning and Skills Council and other partners to finalise the detail urgently. I will then make a statement.

Language Training

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which benefits individuals must receive in order to receive English for Speakers of Other Languages courses free of charge. [110928]

Phil Hope: Changes to funding for ESOL include the withdrawal of automatic fee remission from courses, but learners who are in receipt of JobSeekers Allowance and income related benefits, including working tax credit, will still be eligible for full fee remission. This will help us to focus public funding on those learners most in need of public help and support.

Details of the benefits which learners must be receiving to qualify for full fee remission are a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend explaining the more detailed arrangements when they have been agreed. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Rob Wye dated 2 March 2007:

I write on behalf of Mark Haysom as he is currently out of the office on annual leave, in response to your question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, regarding the benefits individuals must receive in order to receive English for Speakers of Other Languages free of charge eligibility for fee remission is set out in the published LSC booklet 'Funding Guidance for Further Education in 2006-07' paragraph 127. This states benefits that grant fee remission to learners and includes the following:

unemployed people in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance

those in receipt of income-based benefits, formerly known as means-tested benefits, the main income-based benefits are council tax benefit, housing benefit, income support and jobseeker's allowance (income-based)

those in receipt of working tax credit with a household income of less than £15,050

those in receipt of pension credits - guarantee credit

the unwaged dependants (as defined by Jobcentre Plus) of those listed above

Learning Disability

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the detection of learning difficulties in children at an early age. [126623]

Mr. Dhanda: The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice gives guidance to early years settings and primary schools on identification, assessment and making provision for all children with SEN, including those with learning difficulties. SEN Coordinators in early years settings and schools facilitate early identification and intervention for children with SEN.

The Government's SEN strategy "Removing Barriers to Achievement" (2004) set out a long-term programme for improving identification of and provision for children with SEN, including early identification and intervention. The Government's response to the Education and Skills Committee's report on SEN renewed this strategy and set out a programme for building capacity in the children's workforce to identify and meet children's SEN.

The Government have introduced a number of measures to increase the take up of child care, meaning that more children will have access to the services and facilities required for effective early identification of a child's needs and intervention. In addition £50 million has been allocated between 2006 and 2008 for the Transformation Fund to improve the quality of the child care workforce. One of the key aims is to provide training to help professionals identify and work with children with additional needs. Early identification and intervention is also central to the new statutory framework for children from birth to five, the Early Years Foundation Stage, which comes into force in September 2008.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of people in England who have undertaken tests for learning difficulties. [126624]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not collected centrally.

Parents: Intimidation

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what support is available for families in which there are instances of violence towards parents by children; [126673]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* family support groups about the needs of families that experience instances of violence towards parents by children. [126674]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department, via the Children, Young People and Families, Strengthening Families and Family Support grant programmes, supports 207 third sector projects that enable an increase in family and relationship support. These projects provide a range of information, advice and guidance which may include support for parents, carers and families experiencing different levels and types of family and relationship difficulties. This support might include, but is not specifically aimed at, families in which there may be instances of violence towards parents by children.

No discussions have been held with ministers or parent support groups on this specific issue.

School Meals

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advice he received from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in response to the

recommendations of the Turning the Tables report produced by the School Meals Review Panel (SMRP); what the scientific basis was of *(a)* the recommendations of the SMRP report and *(b)* the FSA advice; and what differences there are between (i) the SMRP recommendations and (ii) the FSA advice and the final standards set out in the Education (Nutritional Standards for School Lunches) Regulations 2000. [125718]

Mr. Dhanda: The School Meals Review Panel (SMRP) was established by DfES in May 2005 to advise on standards for school lunches. The SMRP's 'Turning the Tables - Transforming School Food' report, published in October 2005, set out their recommendations to Ministers.

The SMRP's report recommended that new combined 'food' and 'nutrient' based standards were needed to bring about effective changes to school lunches and should replace the previous standards introduced in 2001. The report included references to the published scientific studies that were considered during the panel's deliberations. The full report can be viewed at:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/documents.asp?DocCatId=1

The first phase of the changes to school lunches began with the introduction, in September, of the Education (Nutritional Standards for School Lunches) (England) Regulations 2006. Schools will need to adhere to final 'food' and 'nutrient' based lunch standards by September 2008 (primary schools) and September 2009 (secondary schools). These will be set out in later regulations that will be laid before Parliament later this year.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is an independent Government Department established to protect the public's health and consumer interests in relation to food. It advises DFES on scientific and technical aspects including food safety, nutrition and diet.

Officials from the FSA acted as observers at SMRP meetings and provided technical advice to DfES on those issues that fell within its remit. This advice was broadly supportive of those aspects of the SMRP's recommendations that were within the FSA's remit and assisted with the formulation of the 2006 Regulations. The FSA's advice was provided in line with its nutrition policy, which is informed by considerations of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and formerly the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy.

The Nutritional Standards for School Lunches introduced in September 2006 implemented all of the SMRP's 'food based' recommendations, with a minor amendment to acceptable drinks:

> A reduction to the amount of added sugar in milk based drinks from no more than 10 per cent. to no more than 5 per cent.;
>
> The addition of soya drinks enriched with calcium as an additional option.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on *(a)* nutrition and *(b)* costs which might arise from use of new-generation steam convection ovens in school kitchens; and what advice he has received from the School Food Trust on this subject. [126062]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has not made an assessment of the potential nutritional benefits and savings which might arise from the use of new-generation steam convention ovens in schools. The School Food Trust has not provided advice to the Department on this subject.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he will support a mandatory 10 per cent. minimum target for use of biofuels by 2020 at the EU Spring Summit. [127183]

Dr. Ladyman: At the EU spring summit on 8 and 9 March member states, including the UK, agreed to set a minimum target for biofuels of 10 per cent. share of total petrol and diesel consumption to be introduced in a cost-efficient way in Europe by 2020 subject to a number of conditions. In particular, the target should be binding only if production of the biofuels is sustainable, second-generation biofuels become commercially available and the Fuel Quality Directive is amended to allow for adequate levels of blending.

These conditions are broadly consistent with the conditions the Government have proposed in relation to the future development of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) that is due to start in April 2008. A consultation on the long-term future of the RTFO is currently under way. The RTFO will require transport fuel suppliers to ensure that 5 per cent. of their total transport fuel sale comes from biofuels by 2010-11. The Government have made clear that they are committed to increasing the level of the RTFO beyond 5 per cent. provided that similar conditions around sustainability, technical feasibility and costs to consumers are met and that it represents an effective use of our biomass resources.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the requirements are for the registration of Class 3 vehicles with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA); what factors were taken into account in deciding those requirements; and what steps have been taken by the DVLA to convey this information to the owners of Class 3 vehicles. [127344]

Dr. Ladyman: All mechanically propelled vehicles, including class 3 invalid carriages, used or kept on public roads are required by law to be registered.

DVLA has been liaising with suppliers of class 3 vehicles to inform them about the registration requirements for these vehicles. Special information packs, which provide guidance on how to complete the first registration application forms, are available to suppliers and members of the public. Information about the registration requirements for class 3 vehicles is published at:

www.direct.gov.uk/motoring.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of Class 3 vehicles have been registered. [127345]

Dr. Ladyman: Official statistics indicate that at the end of September 2006, fewer than 100 class 3 vehicles were registered. Since then, it is estimated that the figure now exceeds 1,500.

The proportion of registered vehicles to unregistered vehicles is unknown.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual administration cost to his Department is of registering Class 3 vehicles, including the cost of issuing literature and advice. [127346]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not record separate administration costs for registering class 3 vehicles. The unit cost for processing registration applications for vehicles of that type is £33.61.

DVLA issues advice and literature about the registration and licensing procedures for all types of vehicles generally.

Railways: Swindon

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the status is of the proposal to redouble the line between Kemble and Swindon currently with Network Rail; and if he will make a statement. [125555]

Mr. Tom Harris *[pursuant to the reply, 6 March 2007, Official Report, c. 1853-54W]:* I understand that Network Rail has consulted industry parties on possible changes to the Kemble to Swindon line to improve performance.

Roads: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost is of road schemes approved in *(a)* the Targeted Programme of Improvements, *(b)* local transport plans and *(c)* the Community Infrastructure Fund. [122745]

Dr. Ladyman: The total approved cost of road schemes currently in *(a)* the Targeted Programme of Improvements is £11.897 billion.

The total approved cost of major road schemes in *(b)* local transport plans is £1.385 billion, of which the Department's agreed contribution is £1.128 billion. These figures exclude PFI credit funding for schemes that are being taken forward through the private finance initiative or those schemes that have already been completed.

The total cost of road schemes agreed under *(c)*, the Community Infrastructure Fund is £82.2 million.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Businesses: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Electricity, Safety, Quality and Continuing (Amendment) Regulation 2006 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126617]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows.

(a) The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) for the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity (Amendment) Regulations 2006 has not estimated any one-off costs to businesses or regulators.

(b) The RIA estimates the net cost to electricity companies at £16,800,000 per annum, reducing to £11,500,000 per annum by year 10 and £4,750,000 per annum by year 25. The RIA has identified audit costs to DTI of around £50,000 (every two or four years) to audit the vegetation management work of duty holders.

Combined Heat and Power

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the planned timetable for grants for small community projects with micro-generation was; what the timetable for that programme is now; and what the reasons are for the change. [124711]

Malcolm Wicks: From April 2006 to February 2007, small scale community projects received grant support through the Low Carbon Buildings programme Phase 1. Since February they have been signposted through Phase 2. The change is the result of high demand for grants from householders. In October 2006, we re-allocated funds from within the programme to increase funds available to householders from £6.5 million to £12.7 million. To facilitate that increase in householder funding, we also took the decision to move the majority of small scale community projects to Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings programme from February 2007.

Phase 2, with a £50 million budget announced in Budget 2006, supports projects in the public and not for profit sectors with the specific aim of driving down the cost of microgeneration technologies. Phase 2 has a significant budget, which should continue to provide excellent support to small scale community projects. The plan is to commit the majority of the budget between now and March 2008, however, some projects are likely to complete over the following years.

Small scale community projects can also continue to apply to Phase 1 Stream 2 through to March 2009, although this is a competitive process more geared to larger projects.

Electricity Generation

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of energy was produced by *(a)* coal fired, *(b)* gas fired and *(c)* nuclear power stations in each of the last five years. [126448]

Malcolm Wicks: Fuel used in power stations as a percentage of total primary energy demand on a fuel input basis is as follows:

			Percentage
	Coal	*Natural gas*	*Nuclear stations*
2001	12.8	10.9	8.7
2002	12.3	11.7	8.6
2003	13.3	11.4	8.5
2004	12.8	11.9	7.6
2005	13.2	11.6	7.7

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2006, tables 1.1-1.3 and table 5.6

Electricity supplied by fuel source as a percentage of total electricity supplied[1] on an output basis is as follows:

	Coal	Natural gas	Percentage Nuclear stations
2001	34.1	37.8	22.6
2002	32.0	40.2	21.9
2003	34.7	38.2	21.6
2004	33.2	40.7	19.5
2005	33.6	39.1	19.6

[1] Includes pumped storage

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2006, table 5.6

Electricity: Meters

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps Ofgem are taking to ensure consistent consumer protection is afforded to electricity token meter users; and if he will make a statement. [126891]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem, which is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, has been in detailed discussion with suppliers about the recalibration of certain prepayment meters. Following these discussions, suppliers gave a series of commitments to improve their performance. Details of these commitments were published in Ofgem's recent statement of good practice on token prepayment meters and debt (available from Ofgem's website www.ofgem.gov.uk.) Ofgem will monitor suppliers' progress and will consider if further consumer protection is required.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps Ofgem have taken to ensure that the token prepayment meter users of all electricity suppliers receive equivalent protection from the practice of backcharging; and if he will make a statement. [127242]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem, which is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, has been in detailed discussion with suppliers about the recalibration of certain prepayment meters. Following these discussions, suppliers gave a series of commitments to improve their performance. The commitments vary from each supplier, depending on current practice and performance. Details of these commitments were published in Ofgem's recent statement of good practice on token prepayment meters and debt (available from Ofgem's website www.ofgem.gov.uk). Ofgem will monitor suppliers' progress and will consider whether further consumer protection is required.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the proportion of goods subject to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations which are labelled as required by the regulations; and what he estimates to be the cost to producers of meeting such requirements. [127186]

Malcolm Wicks: The marking requirements of Regulation 15 and 16 of the WEEE Regulations do not come into force until 1 April 2007. Information on the costs of marking electrical and electronic equipment is contained in the final Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanied the WEEE Regulations, when they were laid before the House on 12 December 2006.

Energy: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with Oftel on the introduction of charges for customers who do not pay their bills by direct debit; and if he will make a statement. [121578]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 February 2007]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Hazardous Substances: EC Law

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many companies manufacturing optoelectronic components responded to the consultation on the exemption of substances from the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive; and if he will make a statement. [127084]

Malcolm Wicks: In response to the European Commission's most recent consultation (closed 10 January 2007), I understand that two companies which manufacture opto-electronic components have responded to the request to exempt "Cadmium in opto-electronic components" from the requirements of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive.

The European Commission has not yet put forward proposals to member states as to whether this exemption request will be granted or not.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total value is of optoelectronic equipment containing cadmium manufactured in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [127085]

Malcolm Wicks: This question cannot be answered as the DTI does not hold this information.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consideration he has given to exempting equipment used for live performances from the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive; and if he will make a statement. [127086]

Malcolm Wicks: Any manufacturer or producer of electrical and electronic equipment that cannot comply with the requirements of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive due to technical or scientific barriers, or where the benefits of RoHS compliant alternatives are likely to be outweighed by a greater

negative impact on the environment, health and/or consumer safety, can submit an application for exemption to the European Commission for consideration.

Under Article 5(1) of the Directive, a Technical Adaptation Committee (comprised of all EU member states and chaired by the European Commission), can approve such exemptions requests if they are found to be justified.

As far as I am aware, the European Commission has not received such a broad request exempting the general use of equipment for live performances.

Natural Gas: Imports

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what changes in capacity for importing gas he expects to come onstream in 2007. [126820]

Malcolm Wicks: Until this winter Great Britain was able to import gas by pipe-line from Norway and Belgium, and as liquefied natural gas (LNG) through the Isle of Grain LNG import terminal. During the first half of this winter our gas import capacity increased by approximately 131 million cubic metres per day (mcm/d) through a combination of a new interconnector with the Netherlands (Balgzand Bacton Line (BBL)), an expansion of the Belgian interconnector (IUK) and a major new pipeline from Norway (Langeled). The Teesside GasPort LNG import facility, with a capacity of 11 mcm/d, commissioned last month.

Further gas import projects under development include two LNG terminals at Milford Haven. These are expected to commission in late 2007 or early 2008, and will initially have a combined maximum import capacity of 57mcm/d.

Use of gas import facilities will depend on commercial conditions, including the level of wholesale gas prices in Great Britain compared with prices in alternative markets.

Post Office Card Account

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what meetings he and his Department's officials have had with the banking sector on a successor to the Post Office Card Account. [127233]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers have not met with the banking sector to discuss the replacement card account. The tendering and contractual process for the replacement product are matters for DWP.

Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* proportion and *(b)* wattage of total electricity production in the UK was produced from (i) hydropower, (ii) wind, (iii) biomass, (iv) solar and (v) geothermal in *(A)* 1996, *(B)* 2001 and *(C)* 2006; and what his estimate is of the likely production from each of those sources in 2011. [124639]

Malcolm Wicks: The latest available information is shown in the following table. Data for 2006 will not be available until the summer of 2007. There is no significant generation using geothermal sources. The contribution of the individual technologies to the projected total generation from renewables is for the market to determine.

	1996		*2001*		*2005*		*2010 projection*	
	GWh	*Percentage*	*GWh*	*Percentage*	*GWh*	*Percentage*	*GWh*	*Percentage*
Hydro[1]	3,392	1.0	4,056	1.1	4,961	1.2	—	—
Wind[2]	488	0.1	965	0.3	2,908	0.7	—	—
Solar photovoltaics	—	—	2	—	8	—	—	—
Biofuels[3]	1,805	0.5	4,526	1.2	9,042	2.3	—	—
Total generation from renewables	5,685	1.6	9,549	2.5	16,919	4.2	33,500	8.3
Total UK Electricity generation	350,867	100	384,786	100	400,525	100	400,000	100

[1] Excludes electricity from pumped storage stations.
[2] In 2005 includes electricity from shoreline wave but this amounts to less than 0.05 GWh.
[3] Biofuel sources include landfill gas, sewage sludge digestion, the biodegradable part of municipal solid waste, biomass co-fired with fossil fuels, farm waste digestion, poultry litter combustion, meat and bone combustion, straw and energy crops.
Sources:
Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2006, Table 7.4, and Joint Energy Security of Supply Working Group (JESS) Seventh Report, December 2006

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Criminal Proceedings

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the benefits of allowing relatives of victims to make statements at criminal trials following the recent pilot schemes. [127191]

Ms Harman: The Victims' Advocates is being piloted in five crown courts and provides bereaved families in murder and manslaughter cases with the choice to tell the court about the impact of the crime on them. The pilot is being independently evaluated with the final report due in the autumn.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made

of the effect of relatives of victims making statements at criminal trials on juries and their ability to determine the facts of cases. [127192]

Ms Harman: The Victims' Advocates pilot scheme provides bereaved relatives of murder and manslaughter victims with the choice to make a statement about the effect of the crime on their family. The statement is delivered to the court after conviction but before sentence and therefore does not impact on the role and decisions of the jury.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she will reply to the letter of 25 January from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss V. Howell. [127280]

Ms Harman: My Right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor responded to the right hon. Member's letter on 12 March. I apologise for the delay.

Powers of Attorney

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on how many occasions the Court of Protection intervened to suspend an individual's power of attorney over another in the most recent year for which figures are available. [127312]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 969W.

Voting Rights

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs under what circumstances a Commonwealth citizen is eligible to vote in the UK. [127032]

Bridget Prentice: Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, qualifying Commonwealth citizens are eligible to vote in UK elections. This means that Commonwealth citizens who have the right of abode or leave to enter or remain in the UK, and are otherwise eligible to vote, may register to vote.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Training: Treasury

Mr. Heben: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which training courses her Department or its agencies have offered to Treasury Ministers in the last 12 months; and how many such training courses were attended by Treasury Ministers. [127213]

Hilary Armstrong: The Government take the issue of ministerial training very seriously. I and other ministerial colleagues are working closely with the National School of Government (NSG) to further develop ministerial training. The NSG is a non-ministerial department and is the centre of excellence for learning and development in support of the strategic business priorities of government. I have asked the National School's Principal and Chief Executive to write to the hon. Member giving further details on this issue. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police: Community Support

6. Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in ensuring that people from all communities in Northern Ireland support the police. [126340]

Mr. Hain: Unprecedented progress has been made following Sinn Fein's historic decision to support policing, the courts, the rule of law and their subsequent steps to deliver this.

Police Community Support Officers

7. Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the vetting procedures for the new police community support officers. [126341]

Paul Goggins: The same stringent vetting standards will apply to PCSOs as to regular officers. The regulations will cover both criminal convictions and business interests identical to those which apply to police officers.

Devolution

8. Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made towards the restoration of the devolved Assembly in Northern Ireland. [126342]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Belfast, North (Mr. Dodds).

Autism Legislation

9. Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consideration has been given to introducing autism legislation applying to Northern Ireland. [126343]

Paul Goggins: There are no immediate plans to introduce legislation specifically in respect of autism. The Bamford team's review of legislation, which will cover learning disabilities such as autism, is due to report this summer.

Policing

10. Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether it is the Government's policy to distinguish between civic and political policing in Northern Ireland. [126344]

Paul Goggins: The Government's policy is to deliver effective, impartial and accountable policing, supported by the entire community in Northern Ireland.

Bain Review

11. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the Bain Review of education. [126345]

Maria Eagle: The Bain Review represents an important step in improving education in Northern Ireland. The report includes recommendations for making better use of resources, improved planning of schools, and improved sharing and collaboration across schools, and highlights the educational, economic and social benefits which changes will bring. The Government have accepted all the report's recommendations.

Historical Enquiries Team

12. **Mr. Jeffrey M. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will increase the funding and other resources available to the Historical Enquiries Team. [126346]

Paul Goggins: The Historic Enquires Team project has been allocated £34 million over six years, this is a significant sum. Estimated expenditure to 31 March 2007 is £10.5 million. This project involves the PSNI, Police Ombudsman, Forensic Science Agency and PPS. Government are committed to ensuring that this work is adequately resourced.

Political Parties: Rule of Law

13. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in securing commitments from all political parties in Northern Ireland to supporting *(a)* the police, *(b)* the courts and *(c)* the rule of law. [126347]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given earlier to the right hon. Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay).

Police Ombudsman

14. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what response he has made to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland's recent report. [126348]

Paul Goggins: The Government acknowledge that the Police Ombudsman's investigation has succeeded in bringing to light serious failings of duty by a small number of police officers over the period 1991 to 2003. The Chief Constable has accepted the report's recommendations and work on reinvestigating the cases has already begun. Where sufficient evidence can be obtained, prosecutions will be brought.

Legal Firearms

15. **Mr. Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many legal firearms there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [126349]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following table showing the number of legal firearms in Northern Ireland at 31 March in each of the years requested.

Number of firearms held on firearm certificates

	Total
31 March 2003	142,757
31 March 2004	144,647
31 March 2005	144,554
31 March 2006	138,302
7 March 2007	136,896

Computers: Theft

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 556-57W, on departmental computers, whether any of the computers and laptops stolen contained information *(a)* which could have compromised the safety of individuals or the general public and *(b)* about the names, addresses and other personal data relating to individuals; and if he will make a statement. [125460]

Mr. Hanson: Of the 55 laptops lost or stolen from Northern Ireland Departments in the nine-year period ending in February 2007, it is possible that one owned by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety may have contained documents which included names and addresses relating to dental referral cases.

None of the laptops in question contained information which could have compromised the safety of individuals or the general public.

English Language

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by the Department for Education on the teaching of English as an additional language in each of the last five years. [127189]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education has provided earmarked funding for the provision of teaching and teaching support for English as an additional language (EAL), through the Education and Library Boards in each financial year as follows:

	£
2002-03	200,000
2003-04	400,000
2004-05	410,000
2005-06	570,000
2006-07	834,000

Since 2005-06 funding, additional to that provided through the boards, has been given direct to schools through the common funding formula, for those schools that have identified EAL pupils who require extra support. Funding for the schools by financial year was:

	£
2005-06	1,687,000
2006-07	2,537,000

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the Department for Education's most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* post-primary pupils in schools in Northern Ireland who are learning English as an additional language. [127190]

Maria Eagle: In 2006-07 there are 2,425 children in primary schools (Year one-seven classes) and 1,148 children in post-primary schools who are recorded as having English as an additional language. The numbers refer to children who have significant difficulties with the English language and require additional support.

Ethnic Groups

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's most recent estimate is of *(a)* the number of people from minority ethnic communities who live in Northern Ireland and *(b)* the proportion of the total population of Northern Ireland represented by people from those communities. [127185]

Mr. Hanson: A total of 14,279 people (0.85 per cent. of all people usually resident in Northern Ireland) indicated through the 2001 Census that they belonged to a minority ethnic group.

Nurses

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many nursing vacancies there were in each health trust area in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and what the average length of time taken was to fill nursing vacancies in each health trust area in Northern Ireland over the same period. [127108]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of current nursing vacancies in each Health Trust area in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years is presented in the following tables.

Information on the average length of time taken to fill nursing vacancies in each Health Trust area is not available; however the number of long-term vacancies for nursing staff (i.e. vacancies which remain vacant after three months) is given as an indication of those that were particularly difficult to fill.

The number of current qualified nursing staff vacancies has decreased from a headcount of 746 (678.45 WTE) in June 2004 to 583 (523.80 WTE) in September 2006 (although the September 2006 figure shows an increase from September 2005). The number of long-term qualified nursing staff vacancies also decreased from a headcount of 252 (232.41 WTE) in June 2004 to 203 (171.45 WTE) in September 2006.

The number of current nurse support staff vacancies has increased from a headcount of 105 (94.77 WTE) in June 2004 to 139 (119.67 WTE) in September 2006. The number of long-term nurse support staff vacancies also increased from a headcount of 22 (19.05 WTE) in June 2004 to 70 (60.41 WTE) in September 2006.

Number of current vacancies for nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in each Health Trust as at 30 June 2004

	Qualified nursing staff[1]		*Nurse support staff*	
Trust	*Headcount*	*WTE*[2]	*Headcount*	*WTE*[2]
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	64	63.72	5	5.00
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	9	7.34	1	1.00
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	73	71.32	5	4.80
Causeway HSS Trust	8	7.11	0	0.00
Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust	13	11.00	0	0.00
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	9	7.68	0	0.00
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	22	21.30	0	0.00
Foyle Community HSS Trust	8	8.00	0	0.00
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	40	39.60	5	4.68
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	20	n/a	4	n/a
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	102	100.00	9	8.40
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	13	13.00	0	0.00
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	17	11.20	4	2.20
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	186	161.72	33	30.11
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	69	48.54	17	16.78
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	24	24.00	4	4.00
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	38	32.42	10	9.80
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	30	30.00	8	8.00
Other Agencies and Board Headquarters	1	0.30	0	0.00
Total	746	678.45	105	94.77

[1] Qualified nursing staff include midwives, health visitors and district nurses.
[2] Whole-time equivalent.
Note:
A current vacancy is defined as an unoccupied post which the organisation was actively trying to fill.
Source:
NI HPSS Trusts & Organisations

Number of long-term vacancies for nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in each Health Trust as at 30 June 2004

Trust	Qualified nursing staff[1]		Nurse support staff	
	Headcount	WTE[2]	Headcount	WTE[2]
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	38	37.31	2	2.00
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	1	1.00	0	0.00
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	16	15.26	0	0.00
Causeway HSS Trust	1	1.00	0	0.00
Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	4	4.00	0	0.00
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	14	14.00	0	0.00
Foyle Community HSS Trust	6	6.00	0	0.00
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	1	1.00	2	1.68
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	22	21.60	7	6.17
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	13	13.00	0	0.00
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	16	10.70	4	2.20
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	77	64.54	0	0.00
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	21	21.00	5	5.00
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	14	14.00	2	2.00
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	8	8.00	0	0.00
Other Agencies and Board Headquarters	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	252	232.41	22	19.05

[1] Qualified nursing staff include midwives, health visitors and district nurses.
[2] Whole-time equivalent.
Note:
A long-term vacancy is defined as an unoccupied post which had been vacant for three months or more and which the organisation was actively trying to fill.
Long-term vacancies are a sub-set of current vacancies.
Source:
NI HPSS Trusts & Organisations

Number of current vacancies for nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in each Health Trust as at 30 September 2005

Trust	Qualified nursing staff[1]		Nurse support staff	
	Headcount	WTE[2]	Headcount	WTE[2]
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	14	13.84	8	8.00
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	6	4.54	0	0.00
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	47	46.80	14	11.72
Causeway HSS Trust	14	13.50	1	1.00
Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust	1	0.47	0	0.00
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	20	15.69	8	6.05
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	22	21.42	1	1.00
Foyle Community HSS Trust	12	11.10	1	0.50
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	35	30.02	3	3.00
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	22	21.00	12	12.00
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	36	31.79	14	9.51
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	3	2.15	0	0.00
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	28	23.65	21	18.58
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	156	136.26	45	36.00
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	16	16.00	0	0.00
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	18	17.00	8	8.00
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	22	20.89	6	6.00
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	12	11.60	5	4.45
Other Agencies and Board Headquarters	1	1.00	0	0.00
Total	485	438.72	147	125.81

[1] Qualified nursing staff include midwives, health visitors and district nurses.
[2] Whole-time equivalent.
Note:
A current vacancy is defined as an unoccupied post which the organisation was actively trying to fill.
Source:
NI HPSS Trusts & Organisations

Number of long-term vacancies for nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in each Health Trust as at 30 September 2005

Trust	Qualified nursing staff[1]		Nurse support staff	
	Headcount	WTE[2]	Headcount	WTE[2]
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	10	9.80	3	3.00
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	17	16.80	9	6.59
Causeway HSS Trust	1	1.00	0	0.00
Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	3	3.70	0	0.00
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	3	3.00	0	0.00

Number of long-term vacancies for nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in each Health Trust as at 30 September 2005

Trust	Qualified nursing staff		Nurse support staff	
	Headcount	WTE[2]	Headcount	WTE[2]
Foyle Community HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	26	21.02	3	3.00
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	6	6.00	0	0.00
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	33	28.79	13	8.51
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	16	12.65	6	3.58
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	4	4.00	0	0.00
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	5	4.47	2	2.00
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Other Agencies and Board Headquarters	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	126	111.23	36	26.68

[1] Qualified nursing staff include midwives, health visitors and district nurses.
[2] Whole-time equivalent.
Note:
A long-term vacancy is defined as an unoccupied post which had been vacant for three months or more and which the organisation was actively trying to fill.
Long-term vacancies are a sub-set of current vacancies.
Source:
NI HPSS Trusts & Organisations

Number of current vacancies for nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in each Health Trust as at 30 September 2006

Trust	Qualified nursing staff		Nurse support staff	
	Headcount	WTE[2]	Headcount	WTE[2]
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	36	33.80	6	5.50
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	5	4.80	0	0.00
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	19	18.52	12	12.00
Causeway HSS Trust	41	33.50	5	4.00
Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust	11	9.54	6	5.40
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	29	24.50	9	7.22
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	7	6.56	2	1.00
Foyle Community HSS Trust	8	3.55	7	5.54
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	79	63.37	18	16.91
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	42	34.98	14	9.73
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	42	34.40	20	15.95
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	3	3.00	0	0.00
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	31	27.39	18	16.23
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	49	44.27	5	4.53
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	103	99.50	0	0.00
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	40	40.00	3	2.06
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	32	30.12	8	7.60
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	6	6.00	6	6.00
Other Agencies and Board Headquarters	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	583	523.80	139	119.67

[1] Qualified nursing staff include midwives, health visitors and district nurses.
[2] Whole-time equivalent.
Note:
A current vacancy is defined as an unoccupied post which the organisation was actively trying to fill.
Source:
NI HPSS Trusts & Organisations

Number of long-term vacancies for nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in each Health Trust as at 30 September 2006

Trust	Qualified nursing staff		Nurse support staff	
	Headcount	WTE[2]	Headcount	WTE[2]
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	13	12.86	0	0.00
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	4	3.80	0	0.00
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	10	9.52	8	8.00
Causeway HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	4	3.06	2	1.60
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	3	2.56	0	0.00
Foyle Community HSS Trust	1	1.00	0	0.00
Green Park Healthcare HSS Trust	44	32.00	3	3.00
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	26	21.30	14	9.73
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	37	29.40	20	13.95
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	21	18.86	13	12.53
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	24	22.47	2	2.00

Number of long-term vacancies for nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in each Health Trust as at 30 September 2006

Trust	Qualified nursing staff[1]		Nurse support staff	
	Headcount	WTE[2]	Headcount	WTE[2]
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Sperrin/Lakeland HSS Trust	0	0.00	0	0.00
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust	13	11.62	8	7.60
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	3	3.00	0	0.00
Other Agencies and Board Headquarters	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	203	171.45	70	60.41

[1] Qualified nursing staff include midwives, health visitors and district nurses.
[2] Whole-time equivalent.
Note:
A long-term vacancy is defined as an unoccupied post which had been vacant for three months or more and which the organisation was actively trying to fill.
Long-term vacancies are a sub-set of current vacancies.
Source:
NI HPSS Trusts & Organisations

Pupils

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many schools in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland were *(a)* undersubscribed and *(b)* oversubscribed in each of the last three years. [127111]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following table.

ELB	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Oversubscribed	Under-subscribed	Oversubscribed	Under-subscribed	Oversubscribed	Under-subscribed
BELB	28	98	24	100	25	98
WELB	37	191	34	195	34	191
NEELB	32	199	33	210	31	213
SEELB	24	156	20	160	24	162
SELB	29	238	32	235	50	201
Total	150	882	143	900	164	865

The information provided relates to all under-subscribed and over-subscribed primary and post primary schools in Northern Ireland.

In order to determine over or under-subscription, the total number of year 1 or year 8 applications to each school has been compared with the approved admissions number.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what average funding per pupil was allocated to each education and library board area in each of the last six years. [127112]

Maria Eagle: The following table sets out the average funding per pupil delegated to schools in each education and library board area under local management of schools arrangements in each of the last six years. Further funding is allocated directly to education and library boards for a wide range of services, some which benefit all pupils while others are more specifically targeted. Accordingly it is not possible to present that funding accurately on a per-pupil basis.

£

Education and Library Board area	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	[1]2005-06	[1]2006-07
Belfast	2,319	2,430	2,677	2,749	3,034	3,233
North-Eastern	2,171	2,227	2,482	2,584	2,862	3,052
South -Eastern	2,120	2,234	2,441	2,541	2,771	2,947
Southern	2,214	2,277	2,524	2,617	2,889	3,083
Western	2,248	2,352	2,605	2,707	2,988	3,182

[1] Funding in 2005-06 and 2006-07 was distributed using the common funding formula. Prior to then, each funding authority used its own formula to determine allocations to schools.

Pupils: Racial Harassment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the progress made by the Government since the publication of its Race Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland in determining the scale and nature of racist bullying in schools in Northern Ireland. [127184]

Maria Eagle: In 1999 the Department commissioned research into the nature and scale of bullying in Northern Ireland schools. The report was published in October 2002. The report recommended that managers and teachers should monitor the incidences of ethnic and religion-based bullying and this area should explicitly be included within school policies. The research is available on the Department's website at

www.deni.gov.uk/rb8_2002.pdf I have also arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Following on from this research, in 2005 the Department commissioned the university of Ulster to undertake a further study into the extent and nature of bullying, including racist bullying, in Northern Ireland schools. The report will be published later this year. That will allow for a comparison with the report published in 2002 and the identification of any change.

Schools: Arson

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fires occurred in schools in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; how many were started deliberately; and what the cost of repairs for fire damage to these schools over the same period. [126888]

Maria Eagle: Information on fires in schools by education and library board area is available for the years 2002-03 to date:

Board area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006 February 2007*
Belfast	13	14	10	8	6
North Eastern	6	3	5	5	11
South Eastern	13	5	12	3	3
Western	6	8	4	5	4
Southern	8	5	8	10	4
Total	46	35	39	31	28
Of which:					
Started deliberately	32	22	20	22	21

Information on the costs of the damage is not readily available. This information has been requested from the education and library boards and I will provide this to the hon. Lady in writing as soon as possible.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many schools in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland are equipped with sprinkler systems. [127121]

Maria Eagle: All schools in Northern Ireland must comply with the fire regulations. There is no requirement to provide sprinkler systems. I understand that at the current time, there are no schools that have sprinkler systems installed.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Businesses: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Occupational Pensions Schemes (Winding Up , Deficiency on Winding Up and Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126652]

James Purnell: The Occupational Pension Schemes (Winding Up, Deficiency on Winding Up and Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 were accompanied by a regulatory impact assessment (RIA), a copy of which is available in the Library. The RIA included an assessment of the impact of the regulations on business. The cost to the relevant pensions regulatory authority of implementing the regulations, if any, is not separately identifiable.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Occupational Pensions Schemes (Winding Up and Deficiency on Winding Up etc) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126657]

James Purnell: The Occupational Pension Schemes (Winding Up and Deficiency on Winding Up etc) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 were accompanied by a regulatory impact assessment (RIA), copies of which are available in the Library. The RIA included an assessment of the impact of the regulations on business. The cost to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA) of implementing the regulations, if any, is not separately identifiable.

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to make carbon monoxide alarms available free of charge to pensioners. [123421]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* There are no proposals to make carbon monoxide (CO) alarms free of charge to pensioners.

However, all Fire and Rescue Services in England have discretion to extend their Home Fire Risk Checks for vulnerable households to provide a free CO alarm, in addition to installation of a free smoke alarm. Similar arrangements are being considered in Wales.

There are also other Government initiatives aimed at helping pensioners with gas and heating expenses. These include schemes such as WarmFront, Home Energy Efficiency and WarmDeal, which provide grants for the replacement or repair of heating systems to eligible people receiving certain benefits. In addition, the Priority Services Register enables pensioners to have a free annual gas safety check by their gas supplier.

Child Support Agency: Personnel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days training on average were provided to each member of staff at the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [120241]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty dated 14 March 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of state promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many days training on average have been provided to each member of staff at the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years.

The information requested is provided in the attached table.

	Average days training
2001-02	9.3
2002-03	10.7
2003-04	6.5
2004-05	6.8
2005-06	5.3
2006-07	[1]7.9

[1] Final figures will be available after 31 March 2007. *Notes:*

1. This information has been calculated by dividing the total number of days training provided by the Agency by the average number of people employed by the Agency over the relevant year, this includes those people who received no training in the relevant year.
2. The figures shown for the year 2006-07 are the result of a 12-month projection of training undertaken, based on the training undertaken between March 2006 and January 2007.
3. The decreases in recorded training days since 2003-04 is caused by a number of factors including a move towards blended learning and the use of e-learning with less emphasis on classroom training.

Children: Poverty

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to tackle child poverty in *(a)* Eltham, *(b)* the London borough of Greenwich and *(c)* London. [126700]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our child poverty strategy has achieved success nationally through making work pay and tax credits. Between 1998-99 and 2004-05, the number of children in relative low income fell by 700,000.

We have introduced the city strategy, which should play a significant role in increasing local employment rates, ensuring those most disadvantaged in the labour market can receive the help and guidance they need, delivered flexibly on a joined up, local basis. Two of the initial 15 city strategy pathfinder areas are in London. The East and South East London pathfinder, covering the five host boroughs (including Greenwich) for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, has highlighted the level of child poverty in the area as one of its key challenges.

The New Deal Plus for Lone Parents pilots started in April 2005 in five Jobcentre Plus districts, one of which includes Greenwich. We are testing a comprehensive package of measures based on New Deal for Lone Parents and an existing core set of pilots.

Departments: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what strategy he has put in place for *(a)* the use of renewable energy and *(b)* meeting energy targets in his Department's buildings; and if he will make a statement. [125398]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department works very closely with its Estate Partner, Land Securities Trillium to meet the targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate, which were published on 12 June 2006. A package of measures is in place to address the energy targets, including 'spend-to-save' investment in energy efficient equipment, new monitoring arrangements (which allow the identification, and subsequent rectification of anomalies in energy use) and an ongoing commitment to purchase off-site renewable energy. Regular meetings are held with sustainable development representatives from individual DWP businesses to identify potential efficiency measures and monitor progress. The Department is now assessing also the potential for on-site generation of renewable energy.

The latest available figures for 2005-06 show the Department consumed 327,460,763 kWhs of electricity. Of this 175,174,178 kWhs were acquired from renewable sources—this accounts for 53.5 per cent. of the total electricity consumption.

Information on the Department's performance on all sustainability targets can be found in the Department's annual sustainable development report and the sustainable development in Government report produced by the Sustainable Development Commission.

Departments: ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much expenditure on information technology systems, hardware and software was written off by his Department in each of the last five years. [120457]

James Purnell: No expenditure on information technology systems hardware or software assets has been written off by the Department for Work and Pensions in the last five years.

Housing Benefit: Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit in each year since 1990-91. [121841]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit (HB) and community charge benefit (CCB)/council tax benefit (CTB) recipients in Great Britain, as at August each year 1990 to 2006

	HB	CCB/CTB
1990	3,900,000	6,652,000
1991	4,082,000	6,235,000
1992	4,338,000	6,653,000
1993	4,579,000	5,400,000
1994	4,667,000	5,552,000
1995	4,752,000	5,624,000
1996	4,761,000	5,596,000
1997	4,592,000	5,[illegible]00
1998	4,425,000	5,281,000
1999	4,243,000	5,083,000
2000	3,968,000	4,756,000
2001	3,867,000	4,668,000
2002	3,799,000	4,590,000
2003	3,814,000	4,653,000
2004	3,944,000	4,893,000
2005	3,981,000	4,998,000
2006	4,034,000	5,088,000

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. HB figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. CTB replaced CCB in 1993 when council tax was introduced.
6. CCB/CTB figures exclude any Second Adult Rebate cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 1990 to August 2006. Social Security Statistics (SSI) 1993

Industrial Health and Safety: Aviation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether UK airlines are required to abide by the Control of Substance Hazardous to Health Regulations when their aircraft are in flight. [127373]

Mrs. McGuire: The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) apply to aircraft in flight in airspace above Great Britain.

Industrial Injuries Benefits

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims were made for industrial injury benefit in each of the last 10 years; and of these how many were *(a)* paid with another benefit and *(b)* subject to clawback by the Compensation Recovery Unit. [126417]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* Information on how many claims for industrial injury benefit in each of the last 10 years were paid with another benefit is not available.

The available information is in the following tables.

New[1] industrial injury benefit claims[2]

	Number (thousand)
1996-97	78.5
1997-98	93.7
1998-99	73.2
1999-2000	86.9
2000-01	75.4
2001-02	63.4
2002-03	80.2
2003-04	72.4
2004-05	54.5
2005-06[3]	49.0

[1] Figures up to and including 2001-02 are based on a 10 per cent. sample. Figures from 2002-03 onwards are based on 100 per cent. data. Figures are for all industrial injuries benefit claims including reduced earning allowance, and include a small number of claims from people resident overseas.
[2] Figures are provisional and subject to change.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Number of compensation claims received in compensation recovery unit, where there has been a recovery of industrial injuries disablement benefit

Financial year of recovery	Number of claims
2003-04	9,420
2004-05	9,231
2005-06	9,260

Source:
Compensation recovery unit management information statistics

Information Technology Projects

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information technology projects have been *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* placed under review by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [118805]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department undertakes a large number of projects which deliver business change and policy initiatives. IT changes are an enabling component of many projects. The number of projects in train at any one time will vary and the duration of the project lifecycle is often more than one calendar year. The following table includes only those projects that have been formally closed where the IT element is such that non-delivery of the IT would significantly damage the project's ability to deliver its intended results and the investment in the project has exceeded £1 million.

Project name	Contractors involved	Investment expenditure (£ million)
Document management (closed 2006-07)	None appointed at time of cancellation	1.4
Retirement planner (closed 2004-05)	Accenture as Solution Provider EDS as Solution Operator	11.2
E-enabled retirement pension (closed 2006-07)	EDS	1.8
Benefits processing replacement programme (BPRP) (closed 2006-07)	IBM: solution design services. PA Consulting: client side programme management and implementation support.	[1]35

[1] Including future commitments

The figure for BPRP is some £8 million less than that provided in the answer given on 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 863W. An external audit is now expected to confirm total cost and forward commitments on BPRP of around £135 million.

A significant amount of the investment in BPRP is of future value to the Department. We estimate that at least half of the sum invested (around £73 million) is of future value to the Department.

The Department has a comprehensive monitoring system in place to ensure that projects and programmes continue to deliver value for money, make effective use of departmental resources and continue to meet departmental objectives throughout their development. As such all projects and programmes are subject to periodic comprehensive reviews.

Jobcentre Plus

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Jobcentre Plus offices have had their hours of opening to the public reduced in *(a)* the last (i) six months and (ii) 12 months and *(b)* the last two years. [102423]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 November 2007]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 14 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about how many Jobcentre Plus offices have had their hours of opening to the public reduced in the last (a) (i) six months and (ii) 12 months, and (b) the last two years. This is something, which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A total of 96 Jobcentre Plus sites have had a reduction in opening hours in the two years to February 2007. This information is gathered at a Jobcentre Plus district level, and is set out in the attached table, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

I hope this is helpful.

ANNEX A: Jobcentre Plus—Offices operating reduced opening hours

6 months	*12 months*	*24 months*
Alton	Abingdon	Aldershot
Barnet	Aylesbury	Andover
Belper	Banbury	Ashford
Burnsnadney	Blandford	Axminster
Harwich	Bletchley	Basingstoke
Highfields	Bracknell	Bishops Stortford
Lutterworth	Brixham	Bridport
Mildenhall	Chesham	Brynmawr
Penarth	Didcot High	Burnham on Sea Crft
Petersfield	Downham	Mawr
Stowmarket	Market	Chard
—	Felixstowe	Colchester
—	Holston	Conwy
—	Hunstanton	Cosham
—	Hyson Green	Deal and Wykstable
—	Lampeter	Denbigh
—	Leiston	Dorchester Eastleigh
—	Llandeilo	Exmouth
—	Llandysul	Fareham
—	Maidenhead	Farnborough
—	Milton	Gosport
—	Keynes	Harehills Ryedale
—	Netherfield	Havant
—	Newbury	Hayle
—	Oxford	Hucknall
—	Reading	Ilfracombe
—	Shaftesbury	Ladbury
—	Slough	Llangollen
—	Witney	Llanrwst
—	Woodbridge	Looe
—	Wycombe	Newbridge
—	—	Newport
—	—	North Ryde Petersfield
—	—	Pontlottyn Portsmouth
—	—	Central
—	—	Portsmouth
—	—	Prestatyn
—	—	Richmond (Yorkshire)
—	—	Ripon
—	—	St. Ives
—	—	Saltash
—	—	Shanklin
—	—	Shaw
—	—	Southampton B
—	—	Southampton C
—	—	Swaffham
—	—	Tavistock Wadebridge
—	—	Wareham
—	—	Whitby
—	—	Wimborne
—	—	Winchester
—	—	Woolston
—	—	Ystrad Mynach
11	29	57

Note:
Hartford (East of England) was operating reduced hours 12 months ago, but is now operating full-time hours.

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether national insurance numbers will be issued to *(a)* non-working and *(b)* self-employed migrants to the UK from (i) Bulgaria and (ii) Romania after their accession to the EU. [102122]

Mr. Plaskitt: The allocation of a national insurance number (NINO) is dependent upon satisfying certain employment and benefit-related criteria. Individuals who are employed, self-employed, in receipt of benefit, or the partner of a benefit claimant can be eligible for a NINO.

A non-working Bulgarian or Romanian national would be allocated with a NINO in order to apply for a benefit subject to satisfying the relevant benefit entitlement criteria and identity requirements. There are limited circumstances in which benefit entitlement would arise. For example a highly skilled migrant who

holds an EEA registration certificate annotated to say that they have unrestricted access to the UK labour market and who meets the normal conditions of entitlement for income-based jobseeker's allowance would have benefit entitlement.

A "right to work" condition was introduced into the NINO allocation and decision making process for employment-related applications. This was implemented in July 2006. Bulgarian and Romanian nationals who apply for a NINO for the purposes of self-employment will need to provide proof of their right to work in the UK, their self-employment status, and their identity before a NINO would be allocated.

Pathways Contractors

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he has plans to require private and voluntary sector Pathways contractors to reach targets in relation to certain disability groups; [110582]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that private and voluntary sector Pathways contractors are rewarded for outcomes in the form of claimants moving into *(a)* part-time work, *(b)* voluntary work and *(c)* training. [110583]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Any successful bid for a Pathways to Work contract will need to address the needs of all customers, taking into account the range of different health conditions and disabilities, on a tailored and flexible basis. We have no plans to set Pathways to Work contractors targets for particular disability groups. The Pathways approach to employment support is designed to treat each customer as an individual rather than as a member of a particular group or sub-group. Targets based on condition would frustrate this approach and ignore the fact that customers often have multiple health problems and barriers to work.

Pathways contracts are heavily outcome focused and will pay providers for job entries and for sustained employment. A job entry payment will be paid when a customer enters employment of at least eight hours a week. A sustained payment will be paid if, at the 26 week point, the customer is in employment of at least 16 hours a week and has been off benefit for at least 13 of the preceding 26 weeks.

We accept that full-time employment may not be achievable in the short term for many of our customers, and that for some the move towards employment will be a long-term goal.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Raffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been subject to mandatory work-focused interviews as part of the Pathways to Work pilots since their inception; and in how many cases such an interview has been waived in the case of people with *(a)* certain infectious and parasitic diseases, *(b)* neoplasms, *(c)* diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism, *(d)* endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, *(e)* mental and behavioural disorders, *(f)* diseases of the nervous system, *(g)* diseases of the eye and adnexa, *(h)* diseases of the ear and mastoid process, *(i)* diseases of the circulatory system, *(j)* diseases of the respiratory system, *(k)* factors influencing health status and contact with health services, *(l)* diseases of the digestive system, *(m)* diseases of the skin and subcutaneous system, *(n)* diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue, *(o)* diseases of the genitourinary system, *(p)* pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, *(q)* certain conditions originating in the perinatal period, *(r)* congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities, *(s)* symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified and *(t)* injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes. [101745]

Mr. Jim Murphy: 114,430 new incapacity benefit customers have been subject to mandatory work focused interviews as part of Pathways to Work. Of these, 9,050 had their initial work focused interviews waived.

26,580 incapacity benefit customers who are part of the extension of Pathways to existing customers have been subject to mandatory work focused interviews. Of these, 7,580 have had their work focused interviews waived.

The breakdown of waivers by condition type is in the following table:

	Mandated new incapacity benefit customers	*Mandatory extension to existing customers*
Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	50	30
Neoplasms	660	110
Diseases of the blood	10	10
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	60	110
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	1,830	2,530
Diseases of the Nervous System	290	320
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	30	20
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	10	30
Diseases of the Circulatory System	340	430
Diseases of the Respiratory System	140	190
Diseases of the Digestive System	100	110
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue	30	30
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	590	1,440
Diseases of the Genitourinary System	60	50
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	50	10
Congenital Malformations and Deformations	10	0
Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings	510	770
Injury Poisoning and other consequences of external causes	260	280
Hospital investigations, treatment, observation	100	60
Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy (with cytotoxic drugs)	70	10
Acquired absence of limb	10	10

	Mandated new incapacity benefit customers	Mandatory extension to existing customers
Not Yet Diagnosed	0	0
Surgical Treatment	130	120
Terminally ill	0	0
Unknown	3,720	920
Total	9,050	7,580

Note:
All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Pathways to Work Evaluation Database (data to the end of June 2006)

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what improvement in employment outcomes has taken place in the Pathways to Work pilot areas for *(a)* all participants, *(b)* participants over 50 years, *(c)* participants whose first reason for claiming incapacity is mental ill-health and *(d)* all participants with mental ill-health. [106414]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 30 November 2006]:* Information is not available in the format requested. However, early findings from the independent research conducted by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (Early quantitative evidence on the impact of the Pathways to Work pilots, DWP Research Report No. 354), shows for all participants a 9.5 per cent. increase in the proportion of people who are employed 10 and a half months after claiming incapacity benefit. For participants over the age of 45, the increase in the proportion of people who are employed 10 and a half months after claiming incapacity benefit was 12 per cent.

For participants whose health problem is a mental health condition, there has been no significant impact on the proportion of people who are employed 10 and a half months after claiming incapacity benefit.

Our internal analysis has found that in terms of the net impact of Pathways to Work, those with a mental health or behavioural disorder have fared as well as other customers in terms of off-flows from benefit. One-to-one research with personal advisers and practitioners has found many examples of incapacity benefit customers helped by our Condition Management Pathways in Pathways areas.

Pensions: Overseas Residence

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the policy reasons are for the different rules which apply to providing index-linked pensions to British pensioners living in Canada and the United States. [126543]

James Purnell: The UK has a full reciprocal social security agreement with the United States covering a range of contributory social security benefits for people moving between the countries, including provision allowing annual UK state pension uprating increases to be paid.

The arrangement with Canada is very limited in scope and does not allow annual UK state pension uprating increases. The arrangement, which was first entered into in 1959, helps only persons coming to the UK from Canada. For retirement pension purposes, it allows former residents of Canada to qualify for an enhanced amount of UK basic state pension by treating periods of residence in Canada as periods when UK national insurance contributions had been paid, provided the person has resided in the UK for 10 years following arrival or return here. There is no corresponding arrangement that would help a person going from the UK to Canada to qualify for either UK or Canadian benefits on taking up residence there.

An agreement between the UK and the USA, which was concluded in 1969, allowed future annual uprating increases that became payable after its coming into force to be paid to UK pensioners living in the USA. Talks were subsequently held with Canada about a possible similar agreement. However, Canadian legislation prevented payment of Canadian old age security pension (COASP) under reciprocal agreements with other countries, ruling out the scope for reciprocity in the export of pensions. Although this legislation was amended in 1977 to allow COASP to be paid outside Canada, UK Ministers at that time decided, in line with the UK's general policy on frozen pensions, that insufficient resources were available for increasing the rates of UK pension payable in Canada. The arrangement between the UK and Canada was updated at the time, to reflect the developments in Canadian legislation, but the changes to it were limited to ensuring that there was no double concurrent provision of both countries' pensions for former Canadian residents living in the UK.

Pensions: Retail Sector

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on the pension fund of an individual on median earnings saving in the proposed personal accounts aged *(a)* 25, *(b)* 35 and *(c)* 45 in full-time employment contributing to an exempt employer scheme of a waiting period of (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) nine months and (iv) 12 months where the individual changes employer in line with the average frequency in (A) the retail sector and (B) the hospitality sector. [123164]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the form requested because the samples are too small to provide statistically reliable turnover rates for the two industries separately.

The calculations in the following table are therefore based upon a turnover rate for the retail and hospitality sectors combined.

Fall in fund values for different waiting periods

	Reduction in expected value of fund for different waiting periods (%)			
Age in 2012	3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months
25	7	13	21	27
35	7	13	20	26
45	7	13	20	27

Notes:
1. The calculations assume that the individual has a series of jobs, each 44 months long, until state pension age. Small variations in the percentage by age depend upon the length of their last job, which affects the total percentage of their career spent waiting to enter a scheme.
2. Based on a turnover rate of 27 per cent. of individuals for the retail and hospitality sectors combined (Labour Force Survey 2005).

Roads: Safety

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Audit Commission on the Commission's recent report, Changing Lanes, targeting employers in order to deliver road safety messages to those who drive at work. [126677]

Mrs. McGuire: I have not discussed 'Changing Lanes' with the Audit Commission. However, the Chair of the Health and Safety Commission has written to the chief executive of the Audit Commission to endorse the report's emphasis on education, training and publicity, and also to describe how the Health and Safety Executive has been working with the Department for Transport to raise awareness of employers' responsibility for work-related road safety.

Social Fund

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to establish an online portal through which applications to the social fund could be made. [124905]

Mr. Plaskitt: Although the Department for Work and Pensions is looking at ways of using the internet more in conducting its business, there are currently no plans in place to establish an online portal through which applications to the social fund could be made.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled People

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to improve access to existing benefits for disabled people by increasing the number of face-to-face assessments and home visits for initial applications; and if he will make a statement. [124716]

Mrs. McGuire: The Disability and Carers Service with Job Centre plus and the Pension Service is developing proposals to extend our provision for visiting disabled customers in their own homes and other places convenient for them. This will include among other things face to face assessments and help to complete application forms. We are conducting pilots to test the capacity of Pension Service staff to carry out all of the visits needed for attendance allowance and disability living allowance purposes. The Pension Service is also developing new and efficient methods of delivering face to face contact by working with its external partners.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate, for each financial year since 1978-79, the number of women who were born in 1945 and who in the year in question were recorded *(a)* with a qualifying year for retirement pension on the basis of National Insurance contributions or credits and *(b)* without a qualifying year, showing separately in each case (i) the number receiving Home Responsibility Protection and (ii) the number with a Class 1 reduced rate election. [123886]

James Purnell *[holding answer 27 February 2007]:* The information available is set out in the following table. The second column of the table shows the number of women born in 1945-46 who qualified for basic state pension through contributions and/or credits for each financial year from 1978-79 to 2003-04 *(a)*. The third column shows the number of women born in 1945-46 who did not qualify for basic state pension through contributions and/or credits for each financial year from 1978-79 to 2003-04 *(b)*. The fourth and fifth columns show the number of these women with Home Responsibilities Protection *(b)*(i) and the number with a class 1 reduced rate election *(b)*(ii), respectively, for each financial year.

		Not qualifying for basic state pension through contributions and/or credits		
	Qualifying for basic state pension through contributions and/or credits (a)	*All (b)*	*Number with Home Responsibilities Protection (b)(i)*	*Number with a class 1 reduced rate election (b)(ii)*
1978-79	80,000	240,000	90,000	110,000
1979-80	90,000	240,000	100,000	100,000
1980-81	100,000	230,000	110,000	80,000
1981-82	110,000	220,000	130,000	70,000
1982-83	120,000	220,000	130,000	60,000
1983-84	130,000	210,000	130,000	60,000
1984-85	130,000	200,000	130,000	50,000
1985-86	150,000	180,000	110,000	50,000
1986-87	160,000	170,000	100,000	40,000
1987-88	170,000	160,000	90,000	40,000
1988-89	180,000	150,000	80,000	40,000
1989-90	200,000	130,000	70,000	40,000
1990-91	210,000	120,000	60,000	30,000
1991-92	210,000	110,000	50,000	30,000
1992-93	220,000	100,000	50,000	30,000
1993-94	230,000	100,000	40,000	20,000
1994-95	230,000	90,000	30,000	20,000
1995-96	230,000	80,000	30,000	20,000
1996-97	250,000	70,000	20,000	20,000
1997-98	240,000	60,000	20,000	20,000

		Not qualifying for basic state pension through contributions and/or credits		
	Qualifying for basic state pension through contributions and/or credits (a)	All (b)	Number with Home Responsibilities Protection (b)(i)	Number with a class 1 reduced rate election (b)(ii)
1998-99	240,000	60,000	10,000	10,000
1999-2000	250,000	50,000	10,000	10,000
2000-01	260,000	40,000	10,000	0
2001-02	250,000	40,000	10,000	0
2002-03	260,000	40,000	0	0
2003-04	250,000	40,000	0	0

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. Figures refer to women living in the UK and overseas.
Source:
Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2006 release.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women reaching age 60 in 2005 are recorded as having at least one year of Home Responsibilities Protection which *(a)* did not coincide with a year which qualified for a retirement pension on the basis of contributions or credits, *(b)* did coincide with such a year and *(c)* coincided with a year in which there was a Class 1 reduced rate National Insurance election. [123887]

James Purnell *[holding answer 27 February 2007]:* Of those women reaching age 60 in 2005-06:

Around 180,000 are recorded as having at least one year of Home Responsibilities Protection which did not coincide with a year which qualified for basic state pension on the basis of contributions and/or credits.

Around 430,000 women are recorded as having at least one year of Home Responsibilities Protection which did coincide with a year which qualified for basic state pension on the basis of contributions and/or credits.

Finally, around 60,000 are recorded as having at least one year of Home Responsibilities Protection which coincided with a year in which there was a class 1 reduced rate national insurance election.

As a result of these issues, the information used to answer this PQ only includes data up to and including the 2003-04 tax year.

Additionally, the figures in the response are based on information available for women aged 58 in 2003-04, since these women are aged 60 in 2005-06. No allowance has been made for deaths between 2003-04 and 2005-06.

Figures refer to women living in the UK as well as women living overseas.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

2. Figures refer to women living in the UK and overseas.

Source:

Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2006 release.

Widowed Parents Allowance

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of widowed parents allowance. [125958]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at August 2006, the most recent year for which there is an available figure, there were 37,060 people in receipt of widowed parents allowance in Great Britain.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Human Rights

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking at the United Nations to encourage action against Belarus on human rights. [126985]

Mr. Hoon: The UK and the EU take every opportunity in the UN Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, to express our continuing concerns about Belarus's human rights record. The UN Special Rapporteur on Belarus presented a report to the Human Rights Council in September 2006. The EU spoke in the council's dialogue with the Rapporteur, expressing concern about the further weakening of the independence of the judiciary, intimidation of civil society activists, detention of political prisoners, and the situation of minority groups in Belarus. We will continue to use dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus, and other relevant UN Special Rapporteurs, to register our concerns and press for improvements.

In November 2006, EU members co-sponsored a resolution on Belarus in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. It was duly adopted there and subsequently in the plenary session of the General Assembly. The resolution expressed deep concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Belarus, including Belarus's failure to co-operate with the UN human rights mechanisms; its failure to conduct free and fair elections, including the detention and arrest of political and civil society activists; and persistent reports of harassment and closure of non-governmental organisations, national minority groups, independent media outlets, religious groups, opposition political parties and independent trade unions.

British Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of food served in buildings occupied by her Department was of British origin in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [111126]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) plays an active part in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' public sector food procurement initiative, and seeks to improve the sustainability of food supplied to the Department.

In 2006, the following proportion of food served within the FCO was of British Origin:

	Percentage
Meat	49
Fruit and vegetables	40
Cheese	40
Eggs	100
Fish	60
Milk	100
Bread	100

The contract for the supply of catering to the FCO changed hands in mid 2005 and as a result figures for that year could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Embassies: Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to close British embassies in 2007. [126997]

Mr. Hoon: No British embassies or British high commissions have been closed to date in 2007 and there are currently no plans to close any such missions this year.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continuously reviews the deployment of its resources and aligns them flexibly in line with UK interests to the benefit of the British taxpayer.

European Tender Information System

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost has been of the European Tenders Information System. [126919]

Mr. Hoon: The total project budget of the European Tender Information System (ETIS) was approximately £1.47 million between January 2005 and October 2006. Half of this was funded by the European Union's eContent programme. The remainder was funded by the fourteen ETIS partners in the nine countries (including the UK) involved, who provide services in the field of public procurement in their regions.

European Union: Constitutions

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK has been invited to attend the meeting organised by the German EU presidency on 27 February for those states yet to ratify the EU Constitution. [127339]

Mr. Hoon: To the Government's knowledge, the Germany presidency did not organise a meeting on 27 February for those states yet to ratify the EU constitution.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the authorities in Saudi Arabia on Iran's nuclear programme. [126995]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised Iran with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud in the margins of the Paris III Conference on Lebanon on 25 January. Officials discuss Iran's nuclear programme with the Saudi Arabian authorities on a regular basis, most recently on 12 March.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what she expects the effects to be of the latest set of European Union sanctions on Iran; and if she will make a statement. [127336]

Dr. Howells: UN Security Council Resolution 1737 introduced sanctions targeted at the most sensitive elements of Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. European Union Foreign Ministers decided in January to implement the measures broadly. We hope that these sanctions, and any further measures introduced as a result of discussions currently under way in the Security Council, will persuade Iran to suspend its enrichment-related, reprocessing and heavy water related activities which will permit a resumption of negotiations. There are signs that UN sanctions are beginning to influence the internal debate within Iran.

Iraq: Opinion Polls

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her statement in the debate on 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1428, on Iraq and the wider Middle East, if she will place in the Library the results of the opinion poll of the people of Basra; who *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* paid for the poll; which organisation conducted it; and what its (i) methodology and (ii) sample size was. [126000]

Dr. Howells: The information requested cannot be provided, in order to protect the personal security of individuals involved. The methodology and sample size used for the opinion poll were appropriate in order to gain statistically valid results.

Iraq: Security Guards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will estimate *(a)* how many private military and security companies are operating in Iraq and *(b)* how many individuals are employed by such companies in that country. [127018]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep a record of private military and security companies operating in Iraq. The Private Security Company Association of Iraq (PSCAI) (www.pscai.org) has fifty companies listed as members and estimates that the total private security company workforce is approximately 30,000 employees, broken down as follows:

	Number
Citizens of United States/United Kingdom/Australia;	5,000
Third country nationals such as Fijians, South Americans, Georgians, Ghurkas etc	10,000
Iraqis	15,000

Figures are difficult to accurately assess as the labour force is very mobile and membership of PSCAI is not compulsory.

Lebanon: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government pledged at the Lebanon donors conference. [127234]

Dr. Howells: The UK provided a significant package of economic assistance to Lebanon at the Paris III conference, where my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary announced £58 million for Lebanon for the coming years and an additional £24 million for Palestinian refugees, in addition to the £23 million the UK gave last year in humanitarian assistance for Lebanon.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her Department will act as the sponsor department for the money donated to Lebanon. [127235]

Dr. Howells: The UK provided a significant package of economic assistance to Lebanon at the Paris III Conference. The majority of the funding will come from the Department for International Development (DFID), although a small proportion will come from the tri-departmental (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and DFID) Global Conflict Prevention Pool.

Paraguay: Embassies

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the British Embassy in Paraguay was closed. [126996]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regrets having to close posts in any part of its overseas network. Such decisions are always difficult. The decision to close our embassy in Asuncion was part of a global reorganisation of our overseas network in response to changing demands and challenges, aimed at ensuring that the UK has a cost-effective and flexible network of overseas representation.

The decision was in no way a reflection on the quality of our bilateral relations. As we made clear to the Paraguayan Government, we value the excellent relations we have with Paraguay.

Since the closure of our embassy in Asuncion, coverage has been maintained from our embassy in Buenos Aires where our ambassador to Paraguay resides. In addition, the FCO has appointed an honorary consul based in Asuncion to provide emergency consular assistance. Contact details for both can be found on our website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/paraguay

Project Al Yamamah

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations were received by her Department about the Al Yamamah military contract prior to the announcement that the Serious Fraud Office would end its investigation into the contract. [126928]

Dr. Howells: I regret to inform the hon. Member that to answer this question would result in disproportionate cost.

The original Al-Yamamah military contract was signed between the Government and the Government of Saudi Arabia in 1985. Defence sales are handled by the Ministry of Defence.

UN Security Council

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the outcome of the Security Council discussions held in London on 26 February 2007 on Iran. [126011]

Dr. Howells: United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737, adopted unanimously on 23 December 2006, requires Iran to take certain steps to help build confidence that it is not seeking to develop nuclear weapons. The Security Council asked the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr Mohammed El-Baradei, to report in 60 days and said that it would adopt further sanctions if Iran did not meet its obligations.

Dr El-Baradei's report, published on 22 February, showed that Iran has failed to take the steps required, including full suspension of all uranium enrichment related, reprocessing and heavy water related activities. Following its publication, senior officials from the 'E3+3' (France, Germany, UK plus China, Russia, US) met in London on 26 February to discuss next steps. They confirmed the E3+3's support for additional sanctions, designed to secure Iran's full compliance with its obligations and return to negotiations. They have since spoken by telephone several times and E3+3 representatives in New York have started to consider possible elements for a new Security Council Resolution, which we expect to discuss soon with other members of the Council.

We remain committed to finding a negotiated solution. The E3+3's proposals for a long-term agreement, presented to Iran by EU High Representative Javier Solana in June 2006, remain on the table. We hope that Iran will take the positive course open to it. The Security Council has said that it will suspend the implementation of sanctions if Iran meets its obligations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Age: Discrimination

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on discrimination in the provision of basic goods and services to older people because of their age. [126247]

Mr. Woolas: The Discrimination Law Review has evaluated a wide range of evidence and research on this issue. Examples include the report of the 'Research on Age Discrimination Project' carried out by the Open University and Help the Aged and a survey carried out by the University of Kent and Age Concern entitled 'Ageism—A benchmark of public attitudes in Britain'.

Best Practice

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to issue further guidance to local authorities on best practice in drawing up statements of community involvement. [126401]

Mr. Woolas: The Local Government White Paper (LGWP), published in October 2006, highlighted the multiplicity of community consultation and engagement strategies in local authorities, including the Statement of Community Involvement for Local Development Frameworks. It concluded that in order to secure co-ordinated consultation and engagement across local authority activity we want the local authority and its partners to have the flexibility to draw up more comprehensive engagement strategies. We plan to issue guidance on these comprehensive strategies in autumn 2007 for consultation, to be published in spring 2008.

Gender: Equality

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will direct the Women and Equality Unit to form an advisory group on men's health issues to support the implementation of the Equality Act 2006's gender equality duties. [126724]

Meg Munn: The Women and Equality Unit (WEU) and the Department of Health have been working together with the Men's Health Forum to address health issues specific to men. They have provided funding for a number of events and will be supporting the Men's Health Forum's Conference later this month.

In addition, the Department of Health recently established a Gender Equality Advisory Group. The aim of the Group is to advise the Department on current health inequality trends and to provide a consultative forum on Department of Health policy initiatives that impact on the NHS. Key stakeholders represented on the Advisory Group include the Men's Health Forum, the Equal Opportunities Commission and a number of other gender related advisory bodies across government as well as the Women and Equality Unit and the voluntary and community sector. The Group has already met and will be taking forward a number of gender specific actions including ones that affect men more generally such as prostate cancer.

Homelessness: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of people sleeping rough in *(a)* Penrith and *(b)* Cumbria. [126861]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have published an estimate of the number of rough sleepers in England each year since 1998. At that time the Prime Minister introduced a target to achieve a two thirds reduction in the numbers of those sleeping rough by 2002 from 1,850. The target was achieved in 2001 and is being sustained.

The National Estimate publishes figures on a local authority basis. Penrith is covered by Eden district council who recorded 0 rough sleepers in 2006. Cumbria recorded four rough sleepers.

Housing: Disabled

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Disability Discrimination (Providers of Services) (Adjustments of Premises) Regulations 2001 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125603]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

Any costs to businesses arising from these Regulations were taken into account in the assessment of the overall costs of implementing the new duty for service providers that came into force on 1 October 2004. This duty requires service providers to make reasonable adjustments to physical features of their premises in order to improve access for disabled people to their services.

The only costs that are likely to occur are where a service provider in leased premises is required to seek consent for an alteration to the premises. These are expected to be minimal. Other provisions in the Regulations set out circumstances in which a service provider is not required to make, or therefore incur the cost of, reasonable adjustments to a physical feature.

There will be no costs to regulators, since there is no regulator responsible for enforcing the reasonable adjustment duties of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Enforcement is by the individual disabled person who considers that he or she has been discriminated against by a service provider who fails to make a reasonable adjustment.

Housing: Flood Control

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of new *(a)* housing and *(b)* commercial developments which are able to withstand the effects of flooding. [126020]

Yvette Cooper: No data are available on the proportion of new residential or commercial developments able to withstand the effects of flooding.

The consideration of flood risk in new development by the planning process is covered by Planning Policy Statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk". This advises that where flood risk cannot be removed by seeking a lower-risk location for the proposed development, or by taking other mitigating measures, but where it is still desirable for that development to proceed, the measures to manage the remaining risk should include the use of flood resistant and resilient construction.

We have carried out research into improving the flood resistance and resilience of new building and expect to publish a guide on these matters shortly.

Planning control only applies to applications for new development. Flood resistance and resilience is also of importance to existing development, broadly 10 per cent. of which in England is in the higher flood-risk areas as mapped by the Environment Agency. We published guidance for existing buildings in "Preparing for Floods" in 2002, and revised it in 2003.

Housing: Greater London

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much housing-related Supporting People funding was made available in each local authority in London in each year since its inception. [126842]

Mr. Woolas: The Supporting People programme grant payable to London boroughs since the commencement of the Supporting People programme is shown in the following table:

£

London borough	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Barking and Dagenham	4,544,327	4,997,640	4,829,776	4,774,078	5,061,217
Barnet	7,542,572	7,490,089	7,210,584	7,118,201	7,497,667
Bexley	2,809,055	2,777,648	2,776,759	2,776,454	2,984,688
Brent	13,685,359	13,723,511	13,032,318	12,806,959	12,806,959
Bromley	5,656,336	5,645,494	5,361,155	5,268,448	5,428,129
Camden	40,496,526	39,696,525	37,242,715	36,452,312	35,723,266
City of London	760,118	741,115	703,788	691,618	698,534
Croydon	9,102,163	8,881,039	8,572,165	8,469,806	8,951,651
Ealing	11,577,064	11,643,789	11,103,991	10,927,251	11,125,397
Enfield	11,971,237	11,849,724	11,252,905	11,058,316	11,055,312
Greenwich	9,607,127	9,505,899	9,113,923	8,984,893	9,302,736
Hackney	24,509,011	24,114,767	22,900,212	22,504,214	22,221,917
Hammersmith and Fulham	14,112,586	13,932,752	13,231,020	13,002,225	12,826,145
Haringey	23,764,720	23,323,001	22,148,323	21,765,327	21,330,020
Harrow	3,619,539	3,624,556	3,498,300	3,456,462	3,582,678
Havering	2,573,753	2,550,490	2,460,000	2,430,034	2,578,536
Hillingdon	6,145,631	6,239,503	5,925,247	5,822,786	5,954,047
Hounslow	5,500,202	5,614,200	5,423,405	5,360,124	5,525,734
Islington	16,802,429	16,551,521	15,901,079	15,686,535	15,934,504
Kensington and Chelsea	12,128,322	12,205,258	11,590,533	11,390,106	11,170,507
Kingston	4,7[illegible],200	4,720,995	4,483,219	4,405,694	4,405,694
Lambeth	22,565,449	22,112,120	20,998,429	20,635,317	20,792,197
Lewisham	18,671,575	18,452,195	17,522,839	17,219,829	17,219,829
Merton	3,583,735	3,523,216	3,345,767	3,287,911	3,385,278
Newham	11,355,458	11,272,635	10,855,567	10,717,671	11,068,502
Redbridge	4,466,479	4,394,844	4,258,705	4,213,412	4,467,863
Southwark	20,184,059	20,108,613	19,095,830	18,765,619	18,765,619
Sutton	3,755,546	3,833,837	3,640,743	3,577,786	3,667,041
Tower Hamlets	15,539,395	15,732,633	15,166,392	14,978,978	15,384,899
Waltham Forest	7,940,350	7,967,877	7,666,158	7,566,490	7,882,823
Wandsworth	11,815,116	11,860,631	11,263,263	11,068,495	11,177,258
Westminster	18,488,309	18,250,145	17,330,965	17,031,272	17,051,638

Housing: Standards

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many arm's length management organisations have signed up to the Respect Standard for Housing Management; [126471]

(2) how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* residents in arm's length management organisation managed areas are covered by the Respect Standard for Housing Management. [126475]

Yvette Cooper: 36 arm's length management organisations (ALMO) who together manage over 500,000 units have signed up to the Respect Standard for Housing Management as of 1 March 2007. We estimate that over 1 million residents in arm's length management organisations are covered by the standard.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many arm's length management organisation (ALMO) managed residential properties have received a complete new set of windows since the start of the ALMO programme in April 2002; and how many received a complete new set in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [126473]

Yvette Cooper: The following table, based on returns from local authorities, shows the number of dwellings managed by ALMOs on which capital works on windows (installation, replacement or major repairs)

were undertaken in each year since 2002-03 and the total expenditure on such works. We do not collect separate data on the number of dwellings where complete new sets of windows are installed.

Capital works on windows in dwellings managed by ALMOs

	Dwellings	*£ million*
2002-03	7,437	17.830
2003-04	24,096	58.748
2004-05	35,579	87.141
2005-06	46,199	149.080
2006-07 (forecast)	57,085	211.224
Total	170,396	524.023

Travelling People: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of Travellers residing in Lancashire in each of the past five years. [127095]

Meg Munn: Communities and Local Government do not collect information on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in each local authority area. However, it does publish a count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in local authorities in England twice yearly. Copies of the latest publication "Count of Gypsy caravans on 19 July: last five counts" have been distributed to the Libraries of the House. An electronic version is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153575

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what area of land in Lancashire is set aside for Travellers to reside on. [127096]

Meg Munn: Communities and Local Government publish a list of Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by local authorities and RSLs in England twice yearly. Copies of the latest publication, "Gypsy and Traveller sites provided by local authorities and RSLs in England—19 July 2006", have been distributed to the Libraries of the House. An electronic version is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153575

This does not include private sites.

Local authorities will need to allocate land for Gypsy and Traveller sites in their Development Plan Documents to meet the pitch requirements set out in Regional Spatial Strategies.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Administration of Justice: Females

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to respond to the recommendations in the Corston report on vulnerable women in the criminal justice system. [127570]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government very much welcome this report and have given an undertaking that we will look carefully at the issues it raises and the recommendations it makes for change.

The 43 recommendations made are wide-ranging and propose action by a number of different Government departments and other organisations to address together the complex and multiple needs of women both in the criminal justice system and at risk of offending. These recommendations will be carefully explored with all the departments and agencies concerned and the Government will develop a detailed response and set out an agreed way forward; we aim to respond in detail to this report in around three months.

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were being required to report to a reporting centre in December 2006. [125655]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested regarding how many asylum seekers were being required to report to a reporting centre in December 2006 is not readily available.

This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Children

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied children claimed asylum in the UK in each year between 1997 and 2006. [126079]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the total numbers of asylum applications received from unaccompanied asylum seeking children for each year between 1997 and 2006.

Further information on unaccompanied asylum seeking children is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications and others relating to immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children applications[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 1997-2006

	Total UASC applications
1997	1,100
1998	3,035
1999	3,350
2000	2,735
2001	3,470
2002	6,200
2003	3,180
2004	2,990
2005 [6]	2,965
2006 [6]	2,850

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Figures exclude cases where the age of the applicant is disputed.
[3] An unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) is an individual who is under 18 (or if there is no proof is determined to be under 18), and is applying for asylum in his/her own right; and is separated from both parents and not being cared for by an adult who by law or custom has responsibility to do so.
[4] Figures exclude age dispute cases.
[5] Data obtained from electronic sources from 2002 and not comparable with prior manual counts.
[6] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Iraq

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi refugees there were in the UK in each year since 2000. [117886]

Mr. Byrne: The number of Iraqi refugees in the country at any time could not be determined as refugees may leave the country without advising the Home Office.

Departments: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what databases are controlled by his Department and its agencies; and what percentage of the data in each database he estimates is inaccurate or out of date. [124032]

John Reid: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what strategy he has put in place for *(a)* the use of renewable energy and *(b)* meeting energy targets in his Department's buildings; and if he will make a statement. [125411]

Mr. Byrne: In 2004-05, the latest year for which figures have been published, 17 per cent. of the electricity consumed by the Home Office was acquired from renewable sources.

This exceeds the new sustainable operations targets (SOGE) announced by the Prime Minister in June this year, which requires Departments to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources by 31 March 2008.

The Home Office continues to explore opportunities to further increase the amount of renewable electricity acquired from renewable sources both with suppliers and through self generation.

The Department has recently agreed a strategy that will enable us to address the remaining SOGE energy targets which require improvements in energy efficiency, reduction in carbon emissions and offsetting those emissions that cannot be reduced. Our central sustainable development policy team will shortly begin work on action plans to meet the following:

- increased Combined Heat and Power (CHP) uptake via central energy procurement initiatives and within new builds and major refurbishment projects
- introducing pilot schemes as a first step towards a fully fledged carbon neutrality strategy for the office estate
- participation in the OGC benchmarking scheme for the office estate which, among other aspects, looks at energy performance and will inform the setting of improvement targets.

These initiatives will be supported by more reliable data systems that will be realised through our new shared service operations, as well as by procurement initiatives and funding for energy efficiency programmes to reduce emissions and for carbon offset projects.

Departments: Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether he has considered the merits of merging the Respect, Together and Crime Reduction websites in order to improve the clarity of information provided to the public; [126421]

(2) what the annual running costs were of the *(a)* Respect, *(b)* Together and *(c)* Crime Reduction websites in the most recent year for which figures are available. [126422]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The Crime Reduction website promotes positive crime reduction messages from a broad range of organisations—governmental and non-governmental—both from within the UK and overseas and is aimed at practitioners working to reduce criminal activity. The Respect website, which replaced the Together website in October 2006, aims to inform a broader range of practitioners about dealing with antisocial behaviour by tackling the underlying causes, how to intervene early where problems occur and how to work closely with local communities to effect sustainable improvements. Both websites have been designed to meet the different information needs of these two audiences and are not aimed at providing information for the public generally. We have no plans to merge these sites.

The annual cost for the technical support of the Crime Reduction site for 2006 is £113, 307. The accumulated costs for the Respect website for 2006-07 are £73,000. There are no associated running costs with the Together website as it is hosted by the Home Office and is no longer updated. Visitors to the site are signposted to the Respect website.

Departments: Logos

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have been employed to provide external consultancy advice on departmental rebranding since December 2006; and what the cost was of such advice. [125725]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office has not re-branded or undertaken a re-branding exercise. Our logo and strapline has not changed since it was created in 1999 and no external consultancy advice has been procured with regards to re-branding since December 2006.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* financial and *(b)* practical assistance his Department gives to groups providing support to families affected by instances of violence towards a parent by a child. [126675]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The Department, via the children, young people and families, strengthening families and family support grant programmes is supporting 207 3rd sector projects with over £20 million. These projects enable an increase in family and relationship support. The projects provide a range of information, advice and guidance which may include support for parents, carers and

families experiencing different levels and types of family and relationship difficulties. This support might include, but is not specifically aimed at, families in which there may be instances of violence towards parents by children.

Downview Prison: Catering

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Aramark took over responsibility for provision of canteen services at HMP Downview; when the prison management was supplied with a draft service level agreement between Aramark and the Home Office; when he expects this agreement to be finalised; and when Aramark's contract expires. [126263]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Aramark took over the canteen service in May 2006. The draft Service Level Agreement was provided to the prison in December 2006. This is currently the subject of a review which is expected to be completed in April 2007. Aramark's contract with the prison expires in May 2009.

Holloway Prison

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 108W, on Holloway Prison, if he will list the other further facilities referred to. [126118]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The further activities referred to are Bible Studies and one off events.

Immigration Controls: Fishguard

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspected illegal immigrants have been stopped by *(a)* Immigration and Nationality Directorate officials and *(b)* the police at the ports of (i) Fishguard and (ii) Pembroke Dock since 2005. [125265]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* Passenger ferries at Fishguard and Pembroke Dock arrive from Rosslaire in the Republic of Ireland which is part of the common travel area (CTA). The Immigration (Control of Entry through Ireland) Order 1972 sets out the laws under which foreign nationals are deemed to be given leave to enter when travelling within the CTA. There are police controls in place at Fishguard and Pembroke Dock.

The following table sets out the number of suspected illegal immigrants stopped by police at these ports.

Suspected illegal immigrants stopped by ports police officers

	Fishguard port	*Pembroke Dock port*
2005	48	18
2006	42	21
2007 (January and February)	8	6
Total	98	45

Notes:
1. The figures shown relate to those individuals spoken to by police officers on suspicion of illegal immigration.
2. The data provided are based on locally collated management information which may be subject to change and are not representative of national statistics.

Immigration: Detainees

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those required to report to an immigration detention centre while their applications were being processed missed at least one appointment in *(a)* December 2005 and *(b)* December 2006. [125656]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners were deported in *(a)* October, *(b)* November and *(c)* December 2006. [118113]

Mr. Byrne: The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Lin Homer, wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 12 December 2006 and 19 February 2007 setting out deportation consideration and deportation action taken since April this year. A copy of these letters have been placed in the Library.

Prison Service: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the new Contract Supplementary Hours Scheme payment represents as a percentage of basic pay for *(a)* prison officers on each pay scale point, *(b)* senior officers and *(c)* both payscale points for principal officers; and if he will make a statement. [126489]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The rate for additional hours worked by operational prison staff under the Contract Supplementary Hours scheme is set annually by the Prison Service Pay Review Body. The rate is currently £15.38 per hour. The following table shows the hourly rate of pay for normal contracted hours for prison officers, senior officers and principal officers at each spine point, compared to the hourly rate for additional Contract Supplementary Hours.

Prison officer scale as at 1 April 2006	*Annual payment for normal contracted hours [39] per week (£)*	*Average hourly pay for normal contracted hours [39] (£)*	*Hourly rate for additional contracted supplementary hours (£)*	*Percentage CSH rate compared to normal hourly rate*
Principal officer	31,134	15.29	15.38	100.57
	30,171	14.82	15.38	103.78

Prison officer scale as at 1 April 2006	Annual payment for normal contracted hours [39] per week (£)	Average hourly pay for normal contracted hours [39] (£)	Hourly rate for additional contracted supplementary hours (£)	Percentage CSH rate compared to normal hourly rate
Senior officer	28,654	14.08	15.38	109.27
Prison officer				
LSI2	26,858	13.19	15.38	116.58
LSI1	26,343	12.94	15.38	118.86
Officer max	25,915	12.73	15.38	120.82
Year 9	24,642	12.10	15.38	127.06
Year 8	23,872	11.73	15.38	131.16
Year 7	23,273	11.43	15.38	134.54
Year 6	22,671	11.14	15.38	138.11
Year 5	22,071	10.84	15.38	141.86
Year 4	21,561	10.59	15.38	145.22
Year 3	21,045	10.34	15.38	148.78
Year 2	20,254	9.95	15.38	154.59
Year 1	18,908	9.29	15.38	165.59
Officer entry level	17,744	8.72	15.38	176.46

Prison Service: Recruitment

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Prison Service has plans in place to recruit sufficient prison officers to meet its current or projected operating staffing requirement. [126323]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer to the answer that I gave to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 8 March 2007, *Official Report* column 2171W.

Prison Service: Working Hours

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the new Contract Supplementary Hours Scheme was introduced to the Prison Service; what the reasons were for its introduction; when the use of the scheme was extended; and what the reasons were for the extension. [126329]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Contract Supplementary Hours scheme was first introduced in April 2001 to overcome staff recruitment and retention difficulties in the South East which were affecting the Prison Service's ability to deliver decent prisoner regimes. The scheme was extended across the Prison Service from 30 April 2002 to provide operational flexibility and arrangements were formalised through Prison Service Instruction 26/2003 in June 2003. The scheme can be activated locally by individual Governors when staff vacancies occur in order to maintain regime delivery. Participation on the scheme is entirely voluntary.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures the Prison Service has put in place to address the local recruitment and retention difficulties that caused the introduction of, and the extension to, the new Contract Supplementary Hours scheme. [126332]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 2001, the Prison Service has had in place a system of local pay allowance specifically targeting areas where recruitment and retention difficulties have been identified. In addition the "headstart" scheme allows Governors in areas where retention and recruitment is particularly demanding to appoint new staff on an enhanced level of basic pay at a point above the standard entry level. These measures, together with changes to recruitment procedures, have enabled the public sector Prison Service to increase prison officer recruitment from under 500 new staff in 2001 to over 1,700 new staff in 2006.

Prisoners: Foreigners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals were held in UK prisons on 30 December 2006, broken down by *(a)* nationality and *(b)* offence. [124804]

John Reid *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* Information on the numbers of foreign national prisoners detained in prison establishments in England and Wales on 31 December 2006 by *(a)* nationality (all detained prisoners) and *(b)* offence group by nationality (prisoners under immediate custodial sentence) can be found in the following tables.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Table A: Population in prison by nationality and sex England and Wales 31 December 2006

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
All nationalities	74,236	4,293	78,529
UK nationals	63,157	3,283	66,440
Foreign nationals	10,279	915	11,195
Not recorded	800	95	894
Total Africa	2,840	357	3,197
Angola	81	2	83
Burundi	8	3	12
Dahomey (Benin)	7	—	7
Botswana	2	—	2

Table A: Population in prison by nationality and sex: England and Wales 31 December 2006

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Ivory Coast	33	1	34
Central African Republic	8	1	9
Congo	113	7	120
Cameroon, United Republic	45	4	49
Cape Verde	2	—	2
Algeria	210	1	211
Egypt	14	1	15
Ethiopia	65	4	69
Ghana	179	31	210
Gambia	40	1	41
Guinea	13	—	13
Equatorial Guinea	1	—	1
Guinea/Bissau	1	—	1
Kenya	56	4	60
Liberia	24	4	28
Libya	25	—	25
Morocco	49	1	50
Mali	1	—	1
Mauritania	3	—	3
Mauritius	22	1	23
Malawi	13	1	14
Mozambique	3	—	3
Namibia	2	1	3
Niger	5	—	5
Nigeria	874	193	1,067
Rwanda	15	3	18
Seychelles	3	—	3
Sudan	55	1	56
St. Helena	—	1	1
Sierre Leone	84	7	91
Senegal	9	—	9
Somalia	309	12	321
Chad	2	—	2
Togo	9	4	13
Tunisia	18	—	18
Tanzania	15	1	16
Uganda	85	6	91
Western Sahara	1	—	1
South Africa	143	35	178
Zambia	15	1	16
Congo, Democratic Republic	35	1	36
Zimbabwe	139	24	164
Total Asia	1,643	95	1,739
Bangladesh	168	1	169
Burma	2	—	2
China	232	24	256
Hong Kong	6	—	6
Indonesia	4	—	4
India	269	7	276
British India Ocean Territories	1	—	1
Cambodia	1	—	1
Korea Republic of (Sth)	4	—	4
Sri Lanka	157	4	161
Mongolia	8	—	8
Maldives	1	—	1

Table A: Population in prison by nationality and sex: England and Wales 31 Decemb-er 2006

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Malaysia	23	1	24
Nepal	1	—	1
Philippines	12	12	24
Pakistan	447	8	455
Singapore	4	—	4
Thailand	2	7	9
East Timor (Portuguese)	1	—	1
Vietnam	300	33	332
Total central and South America	324	46	371
Argentina	2	1	3
Bolivia	5	1	6
Brazil	59	14	73
Belize	2	—	2
Chile	14	1	15
Columbia	112	9	121
Costa Rica	3	—	3
Ecuador	18	—	18
French Guyana	4	—	4
Guatemala	5	—	5
Guyana	33	8	41
Honduras	1	—	1
Mexico	15	2	17
Panama	2	1	3
Peru	5	—	5
Paraguay	1	—	1
Surinam	6	1	7
El Salvador	1	1	2
Uruguay	3	—	3
Venezuela	33	8	41
Total Europe	2,966	223	3,189
Albania	148	1	149
Armenia	3	—	3
Austria	9	3	12
Azerbijan	4	—	4
Bosnia-Hercegovina	6	3	9
Belgium	34	5	39
Bulgaria	9	—	9
Croatia	9	1	10
Switzerland	4	—	4
Czech Republic	35	2	37
Cyprus	58	2	60
Germany	123	16	139
Denmark	8	2	10
Estonia	15	2	17
Spain	68	11	79
Finland	2	—	2
France	157	13	170
Georgia	14	1	15
Gibraltar	3	—	3
Greece	14	4	18
Hungary	21	2	22
Irish Republic	640	42	682
Italy	105	9	113
Kazakhstan	3	—	3
Kyrgystan	5	—	5
Lithuania	176	18	194

Table A: Population in prison by nationality and sex England and Wales 31 December 2006

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
Latvia	46	1	47
Moldova	44	2	46
Macedonia	4	1	5
Serbia and Montenegro	106	1	107
Malta	7	—	7
Netherlands	125	29	154
Norway	5	—	5
Poland	265	13	278
Portugal	173	7	180
Romania	105	11	116
Sweden	12	6	18
Slovakia	20	2	22
Slovenia	6	1	7
Russia	104	13	117
Turkey	265	1	266
Uzbekistan	3	—	3
Total Middle East	706	4	710
United Arab Emirates	9	—	9
Afghanistan	108	—	108
Bahrain	2	—	2
Iran	209	2	211
Israel	27	—	27
Iraq	280	—	280
Jordan	12	—	12
Kuwait	13	—	13
Lebanon	22	1	23
Oman	1	—	1
Saudi Arabia	9	1	10
Syrian Arab Republic	6	—	6
Yemen, Republic of	7	—	7
Total North America	104	21	125
Canada	19	6	26
United States of America	84	15	99
Total Oceania	39	6	45
Australia	20	4	24
Fiji	10	—	10
French Southern Territories	1	—	1
Johnston Island	1	—	1
Kiribati	1	—	1
New Zealand	4	2	6
Papua New Guinea	1	—	1
Total other	10	—	10
Total unrecorded	800	95	894
West Indies	1,647	162	1,809
Aruba	1	—	1
Anguilla	1	—	1
Netherlands Antilles	22	6	28
Barbados	29	2	31
Bermuda	6	1	7
Bahamas	5	—	5
Cuba	1	—	1
Dominica	7	—	7
Dominican Republic	7	3	10
Grenada	21	4	25
Haiti	2	—	2
Jamaica	1,414	110	1,524
St. Lucia	25	6	31
Montserrat	14	—	14
St. Christopher and Nevis	1	—	1
St. Kitts and Nevis	3	—	3
Trinidad and Tobago	75	26	101
St. Vincent and The Grenadines	13	4	17

Table B: Prison population[1] within England and Wales at 31 December 2006 by nationality and offence group

	Foreign national prisoners	Not recorded	UK national	Total
Offence group	7,407	153	56,268	63,828
Violence against the person	1,326	39	15,507	16,872
Sexual offences	752	14	6,228	6,994
Robbery	597	10	7,915	8,522
Burglary	246	16	7,678	7,940
Theft and handling	262	9	3,258	3,529
Fraud and forgery	883	18	838	1,739
Drug offences	2,621	25	8,034	10,680
Motoring offences	121	8	1,389	1,518
Other offences	574	13	5,102	5,690
Offence not recorded	24	2	319	345

[1] Prison population under immediate custodial sentence shown

Serious Organised Crime Agency

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Serious and Organised Crime Agency's annual report for 2006-07 will be published. [122906]

John Reid: The Serious Organised Crime Agency are planning to publish their annual report in the summer.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal prosecutions have been brought by the Serious Organised Crime Agency since 1 April 2006. [124771]

John Reid: 316 people have been prosecuted as a result of SOCA operations over this period.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff

employed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency are undertaking work to prevent *(a)* drugs trafficking and *(b)* fraud. [124773]

John Reid: The SOCA Board has determined that SOCA should aim to apportion broadly 40 per cent. of its operational effort to drugs trafficking and 10 per cent. to individual and private sector fraud.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action the Serious Organised Crime Agency is taking to disrupt the smuggling of guns into the UK. [124774]

John Reid: As part of the UK Control Strategy to respond to serious and organised crime, SOCA has developed a number of programmes of work, one of which is led by ACPO and relates to the response required to address illicit activity with respect to firearms. The programme seeks to build knowledge and understanding of firearms related criminality and, where appropriate, SOCA resources are deployed in support of operations to target organised crime enterprises believed to be involved in firearms crime.

Sexual Offences

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the effects of incidence of sexual violence or abuse committed against offenders whether as adults or as children in the context of repeat offending or crimes of violence. [126300]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Office has not commissioned or evaluated research into the effects of incidence of sexual violence or abuse committed against offenders whether as adults or children in the context of repeat offending or crimes of violence.

Links between the experience of sexual abuse and subsequent offending behaviour, i.e. the victim-offender cycle, are complex and a history of sexual abuse is generally associated with a range of adverse childhood experiences which are difficult to disentangle (Falshaw, 2005; Grubin, 1998 Falshaw, L. 2005).

The link between a history of maltreatment and subsequent offending behaviour: Probation Journal, 52(4), 423-434. Grubin, D. (1998). Sex offending against children: Understanding the risk. Police Research Series. Paper 99. London: Home Office.

Special Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of his special advisers have given notice of any other external employment they have undertaken in the past 12 months. [102800]

Mr. Byrne: None of the Home Secretary's special advisers has given notice of any other external employment they have undertaken since being appointed to their positions at the Home Office.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's civil servants work full-time to support departmental special advisers; and what the salary is of each such civil servant. [106515]

Mr. Byrne: The full-time equivalent of 2.5 of the Home Office's civil servants are employed in direct support of special advisers in the Department. The salary details of these civil servants may not be disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Health Services

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reimburse to Bedford Primary Care Trust the costs of treating detainees at the Yarl's Wood asylum detention centre; and if he will make a statement. [127091]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 March 2007]*: Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) have an existing obligation for commissioning secondary and tertiary healthcare services for detainees who reside in removal centres within their geographical area. Like other immigration removal centres, Yarl's Wood has primary healthcare provision on site that is funded through the contract with the centre operator. Detainees receive any necessary secondary healthcare services from the NHS. NHS services are, however, only used in situations where detainees cannot be treated through the on-site primary care provision and are referred to secondary services or in an emergency situation.

Young Offenders: Drugs

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young offenders were screened positively for substance misuse in each year since 2002; how many accessed early intervention and treatment services in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [126057]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data on the number of young people identified as requiring substance misuse assessment and accessing early intervention and treatment services are collected by the Youth Justice Board from youth offending teams and are set out in the tables.

The Youth Justice Board did not collect these data prior to 2004. The 2004-05 data were collected on young people accessing treatment within 10 days. In 2005-06 data were also collected on those receiving services within 20 days.

Young people receiving services later than these timescales were not reported to the Youth Justice Board.

These are not Home Office statistics and although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile the figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Number of young people YOTs reported as requiring substance misuse assessment

	Number
2004-05	17,524
2005-06	15,414

Numbers of young people YOTs report accessing early intervention and treatment services

		Number
2004-05 (within 10 days)		10,645
	Tier 2	7,672
	Tier 3	2,826
	Tier 4	147
2005-05 (within 20 days)		12,874
	Tier 2	8,786
	Tier 3	3,972
	Tier 4	116

Note:
Tiers 2, 3 and 4 refer to levels of service required for substance misuse issues of low, medium or high severity

TREASURY

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1675W, on agriculture: subsidies, if he will break down the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' £305 million claim on the revenue. [126234]

John Healey: The additional cover of £305 million on DEFRA's spring supplementary estimate is based on a prudent assessment at that time of issues raised in relation to progress in making payments and regulatory compliance for potential disallowances at the end of the financial year. Detailed discussions will take place with the Commission over a number of years before a final figure is reached.

Average Earnings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the pay gap between *(a)* women working full-time, *(b)* women working part-time, *(c)* women with dependent children, *(d)* ethnic minorities, *(f)* workers aged 50 years or over, *(g)* workers with disabilities and *(h)* those with the lowest qualifications and the hourly median earnings for men in each year since 1997. [126513]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the pay gap between (a) women working full-time, (b) women working part-time, (c) women with dependent children, (d) ethnic minorities, (f) workers aged 50 years or over, (g) workers with disabilities and (h) those with the lowest qualifications and the hourly median earnings for men in each year since 1997. (126513)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. This is the standard definition used for ASHE. The ASHE does not collect information on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

Analyses for women with dependent children, ethnic minorities, workers with disabilities, and by qualification are not available from ASHE. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) does collect this information, but in the form requested it is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The attached table shows median gross hourly earnings excluding overtime and the pay gap, for full-time females, part-time females and all employees aged over 50, compared to the median gross hourly earnings excluding overtime for full-time men.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Gender pay gap, United Kingdom

	Median gross hourly earnings excluding overtime[a]						
	Full-time male	*Full-time female*		*Part-time female*		*Employees aged 50+*	
	£	£	*Pay gap*[b]	£	*Pay gap*[b]	£	*Pay gap*[b]
1997	8.40	6.94	17.4	4.75	43.5	6.71	20.2
1998	8.74	7.22	17.4	4.90	43.9	7.02	19.7
1999	9.07	7.58	16.4	5.10	43.8	7.30	19.5
2000	9.35	7.83	16.3	5.26	43.7	7.47	20.1
2001	9.84	8.23	16.4	5.50	44.1	7.83	20.4
2002	10.26	8.67	15.5	5.72	44.2	8.11	20.9
2003	10.58	9.04	14.6	6.08	42.5	8.51	19.6
2004 excluding	11.09	9.53	14.1	6.35	42.7	8.89	19.8
2004 including[c]	10.96	9.37	14.5	6.32	42.3	8.87	19.1
2005	11.29	9.82	13.0	6.72	40.5	9.39	16.8
2006	11.71	10.24	12.6	7.00	40.2	9.84	16.0

Notes:
[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[b] The percentage difference between the relevant hourly pay, and that of full-time males.
[c] In 2004, additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value, the higher the quality.
The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.
All of the figures on this table have a CV of less than 5 per cent.
The median is the value below which 50 per cent. of employees fall. It is preferred over the mean for earnings data as it is influenced less by extreme values and because of the skewed distribution of earnings data.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Business: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Money Laundering Regulations 2003 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126672]

Ed Balls: The Full Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Money Laundering Regulations 2003 lists the following costs for sectors:

Legal and accountancy: £80-£100 million per annum;

Estate agents: £10-£15 million for the first year. £5-£7.5 million thereafter;

High Value Dealers: £350 per firm per year.

HM Treasury's simplification plan 'Delivering Better Regulation', published in December 2006, identified a net administrative burden of £921,617 (per annum). This relates to the supervisory arrangements for Money Service Businesses and High Value Dealers, as set out in Part 3 of the Regulations.

The Regulations have brought benefits in detecting, deterring and disrupting money laundering and terrorist financing.

HM Treasury is committed to reducing regulatory burdens where possible. Work on identifying simplification measures to reduce the burden for industry of applying anti-money laundering controls is ongoing.

Departments: Africa

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials accompanied him on each visit he made to an African country in January 2005; what the cost of hotels was for *(a)* him and *(b)* his officials on each visit; and whether (i) he and (ii) his officials stayed in accommodation provided by the UK's high commission or embassy in each country. [126921]

John Healey: In respect of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of the lists are available in the Library for the reference of Members. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Library for the reference of Members. For information on subsistence costs for HM Treasury I refer to the answer I gave on 16 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1060W to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps). All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code", a copy of which is also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departments: Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 483W, on Members: correspondence, whether his Department will assist in the organisation of the conference. [126604]

John Healey: The organisation of this conference is not a matter for the Treasury.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any members of the Council of Economic Advisers were involved in the formulation of his announcement on Citizenship and Immigration of 27 February 2007. [126576]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 280W.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received representations on the number of special advisers he employs. [126574]

John Healey: All advisers are employed in line with the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the characteristics are of a Red RAG (Red, Amber and Green) score for a departmental programme. [126879]

Mr. Timms: RAG assessment is a common tool used in a number of contexts across the public and private sector. The description of what constitutes a rating in any given RAG system will differ. HMT does not maintain a standard definition.

Disposable Income

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of disposable income was paid on average in *(a)* direct taxes, *(b)* indirect taxes by (i) working age households with dependent children, (ii) working age households without dependent children and (iii) pensioner households in each of the last three years, broken down by income decile. [126508]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how much and what proportion of disposable income was paid on average in (a) direct taxes, (b) indirect taxes by (i) working age households with dependent children, (ii) working age households without dependent children and (iii) pensioner households, broken down by income decile in each of the last three years. (126508)

Estimates of the proportion of income paid in both direct and indirect taxes appear in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. The latest analysis for 2004/05 was published on the National Statistics website on 12th May 2006 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. The analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK. The analysis for 2005/06 will be published on the National Statistics website on 17 May 2007.

The tables below show the amount of direct and indirect taxes paid by each of the three different types of household. They also show the average payment of direct and indirect taxes as a

proportion of income. However, since disposable income is that received after the payment of direct taxes, the proportion of disposable income paid in direct taxes is zero by definition. So only indirect taxes are shown as a proportion of disposable income. To enable a comparison, both direct and indirect taxes have been shown as a proportion of gross income.

Figures have been provided for the last three years, and they have been taken from (or calculated from) figures appearing in the three most recent 'effects of taxes and benefits' articles, those for 2002/03, 2003/04, and 2004/05. The figures for non-retired households with children have been taken from Table 21, the figures for non-retired households without children from Table 20, and the figures for retired households from Table 18. Retired households are those where the income of retired household members accounts for more than half of the household gross income.

Direct taxes include income tax, national insurance contributions and council tax. The indirect taxes include VAT, duties, intermediate taxes (see background notes), and a number of smaller items such as television licences.

When comparing estimates over these three years, it should be remembered that the estimates are based on a sample, and that there is some uncertainty around the estimates. While there will have been some changes in the taxes paid by households over this period, the underlying changes are difficult to distinguish from the movements arising from sampling error, especially in the figures for decile groups. Given this, these figures are best interpreted as indicating the average level of tax payments over this three year period, rather than interpreting them as measuring how the tax burden has changed over these three years.

There was a change to the way that tax credits were treated from 2003/04 onwards. Up until 2002/03 tax credits were treated as cash benefits. From 2003/04, they are classified as negative income tax, but only to the extent that income tax less tax credits, remains greater than or equal to zero for each family. So for households paying relatively little or no income tax, tax credit payments were still regarded either partially or wholly, as cash benefits. Based on figures for 2003/04, the effect of this change was to reduce the overall estimate of direct taxes as a proportion of gross income for all households, by 0.3%.

Indirect taxes, when expressed as a proportion of either gross or disposable income appears particularly high for the bottom income decile, although this result needs to be interpreted carefully. Estimates of indirect taxes are estimated based on household expenditure. It should be remembered that measured expenditure will not necessarily balance with measured income for the year. This is especially true for the bottom income decile where average measured income is significantly lower than average expenditure. For these households, indirect taxes (which reflect expenditure) are not being met solely from current income, and so indirect taxes are very high when expressed as a proportion of either gross or disposable income.

There are a number of plausible reasons why for some households, expenditure might exceed income. Households with low incomes may draw on their savings or borrow in order to finance their expenditure. In addition, the lower decile in particular includes some groups, who have, or report, very little income (for example, self-employed people starting a business or someone who has just been made redundant). In these cases, expenditure is not being met from current income. Some types of receipts are not included as income in the EFS e.g. inheritance and severance payments. In some cases, the information given on expenditure is not consistent with that on income received because of timing differences.

Table 1: Direct and indirect taxes paid by non-retired households with children by decile group, 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Decile groups of all non-retired households with children ranked by equivalised disposable income										
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
Average per household (£ per year)											
Direct taxes											
2002-03	826	1,426	2,038	3,398	4,629	5,840	7,588	9,728	12,456	23,632	7,156
2003-04	787	1,410	2,514	3,644	5,002	6,421	7,977	9,798	13,265	25,471	7,629
2004-05	910	1,517	2,908	3,876	5,197	6,492	8,271	10,088	14,220	27,420	8,090
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	3,565	3,638	3,808	4,449	4,906	5,107	6,114	6,643	7,205	9,492	5,493
2003-04	3,301	3,755	4,518	4,948	5,662	6,089	5,963	6,942	7,423	9,538	5,814
2004-05	3,781	3,987	4,316	5,078	5,571	5,872	6,717	6,756	7,631	9,856	5,957
Percentages of gross income											
Direct taxes											
2002-03	8	9	11	15	17	19	20	21	22	25	20
2003-04	7	9	12	14	17	19	21	22	24	25	20
2004-05	7	9	13	15	17	19	20	21	23	26	20
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	32	24	21	20	18	16	16	15	13	10	15
2003-04	31	24	22	19	19	18	15	16	13	9	15
2004-05	31	23	20	19	19	17	16	14	13	9	15
Percentages of disposable income											
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	35	27	24	23	22	20	20	18	17	14	19
2003-04	34	26	25	23	23	22	19	20	17	12	19
2004-05	34	25	23	23	22	21	21	18	16	13	19

Table 2: Direct and indirect taxes paid by non-retired households without children by decile group, 2002-03 to 2004-05

Decile groups of all non-retired disposable income households without children ranked by equivalised disposable income

	Bottom	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Top	All households
Average per household (£ per year)											
Direct taxes											
2002-03	660	1,698	3,204	4,453	5,326	6,976	7,999	9,842	11,732	19,880	7,177
2003-04	981	1,587	3,129	4,499	5,662	7,373	8,750	10,168	12,261	22,865	7,728
2004-05	1,055	2,292	3,986	5,115	6,286	8,008	9,391	10,951	13,576	22,907	8,357
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	3,010	3,069	3,796	4,411	4,734	5,240	5,358	5,879	6,841	7,472	4,981
2003-04	2,775	3,230	3,695	4,263	4,673	5,185	5,392	5,908	6,051	7,872	4,904
2004-05	3,010	3,740	4,229	4,421	5,097	5,577	5,502	5,974	6,474	8,211	5,223
Percentages of gross income											
Direct taxes											
2002-03	11	13	17	19	19	21	22	22	23	25	21
2003-04	14	12	17	19	21	22	23	24	25	26	23
2004-05	12	15	18	20	21	22	23	24	25	25	23
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	48	23	20	19	17	16	15	13	13	9	15
2003-04	40	25	20	18	17	16	14	14	12	9	14
2004-05	35	24	19	17	17	16	14	13	12	9	14
Percentages of disposable income											
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	54	26	24	23	21	20	19	17	17	12	19
2003-04	47	29	25	22	22	20	18	18	16	12	19
2004-05	40	29	24	22	21	20	18	17	16	12	18

Table 3: Direct and indirect taxes paid by retired households by decile group, 2002-03 to 2004-05

Decile groups of all retired households ranked by equivalised disposable income

	Bottom	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Top	All households
Average per household (£ per year)											
Direct taxes											
2002-03	632	701	754	617	810	1,021	1,358	1,848	2,650	6,655	1,705
2003-04	712	687	867	873	770	1,231	1,628	2,181	2,856	6,687	1,849
2004-05	901	726	903	908	825	1,202	1,473	2,062	2,894	6,128	1,802
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	1,761	1,832	2,021	1,856	2,190	2,129	2,557	2,981	3,119	4,360	2,481
2003-04	1,830	1,601	2,291	2,008	2,051	2,570	2,745	3,228	2,973	4,812	2,611
2004-05	1,908	1,958	2,167	2,147	1,930	2,517	2,552	2,692	3,362	4,770	2,600
Percentages of gross income											
Direct taxes											
2002-03	10	8	8	6	7	8	9	11	13	18	12
2003-04	11	8	9	8	7	9	10	12	14	19	12
2004-05	14	9	9	8	7	9	10	11	13	17	12
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	29	21	21	18	20	17	18	18	15	12	17
2003-04	29	20	23	19	18	19	18	18	14	13	17
2004-05	29	23	21	19	17	19	17	15	16	13	17

Table 3: Direct and indirect taxes paid by retired households by decile group, 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Decile groups of all retired households ranked by equivalised disposable income										
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
Percentages of disposable income											
Indirect taxes											
2002-03	33	23	22	19	22	18	20	20	17	14	19
2003-04	32	21	25	20	20	21	20	20	17	17	20
2004-05	34	25	24	20	18	21	19	17	18	16	19

EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made towards setting up a European growth fund. [126578]

John Healey: The European Action for Growth initiative, to which I assume the hon. Member's question relates, was endorsed by the European Council in December 2003. Under this initiative, the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group and the EU fund investment in trans-European infrastructure networks (TENs), innovation and R & D, identifying priority projects and research areas, and improving the regulatory, administrative and financial environment so as to mobilise private financing and to optimise public funding. The EIB, of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is a Governor, has established a dedicated unit taking forward the initiative. Already, a number of instruments have been advanced including, for example, the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) and an increased contribution to the TENs Investment Facility. A mid-term evaluation of the Action for Growth Initiative is expected by the end of 2007.

Environment Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer further to his announcement of 25 September 2006, when his Department expects to bring forward proposals on environmental technologies. [126577]

John Healey: The Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance was announced by the Government in November 2006, and will report before the summer on how the UK can make the most of the opportunities provided by growing environmental markets.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the potential additional revenue to his Department if the duty was payable on alcohol bought in other EU member states and imported to the UK. [126409]

John Healey: No estimates have been produced of the potential additional revenue if the duty was payable on alcohol bought in other EU member states and imported to the UK.

Population: Health Authorities

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of each strategic health authority's resident population is aged *(a)* over state pension age, *(b)* 65 or over, *(c)* 75 or over, *(d)* 85 or over, *(e)* 95 or over and *(f)* 100 or over; [126551]

(2) what estimate he has made of the population size of each strategic health authority in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030; how many and what proportion of the projected population he estimates will be aged (i) over state pension age, (ii) 65 or over, (iii) 75 or over, (iv) 85 or over, (v) 95 or over and (vi) 100 or over in each year. [126609]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary questions about asking (1) the current proportion of each strategic health authority's resident population; and (2) the projected population size, and proportion of the population, of each strategic health authority in 2010, 2020 and 2030, aged (a) over state pension age (b) 65 or over, (c) 75 or over, (d) 85 or over, (e) 95 or over, (f) 100 or over. (126551 and 126609)

Table 1 shows the proportion of each strategic health authority's resident population aged over state pension age, 65 or over, 75 or over, 85 or over and 90 or over. These data are calculated from the estimates of the population at mid-2005 and are the latest available. They are not available for the age groups 95 or over and 100 or over.

Tables 2a, 2b and 2c show the projected population size of each strategic health authority, as well as the projected population size and the projected proportion of the population that are aged over state pension age, 65 or over, 75 or over and 85 or over, for the years 2010, 2020 and 2029 respectively. These data are from the sub-national population projections based on the mid-2004 population estimates. These projections only run for 25 years and are therefore only available to 2029. They are not available for the age groups 95 or over and 100 or over.

All data are shown for the strategic health authorities on the 2006 boundaries.

Table 1: Proportion of 2005 mid-year estimate population by strategic health authority[1] for specific age groups

					Percentage
SHA	*over state pension age*	*65+*	*75+*	*85+*	*90+*
North East SHA	19.5	16.8	7.7	1.8	0.6
North West SHA	18.8	16.1	7.5	1.9	0.7
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	18.9	16.2	7.7	1.9	0.7
East Midlands SHA	19.1	16.3	7.8	1.9	0.7

Table 1: Proportion of 2005 mid-year estimate population by strategic health authority[1] for specific age groups

SHA	over state pension age	65+	75+	85+	Percentage 90+
West Midlands SHA	19.0	16.2	7.7	1.9	0.7
East SHA	19.6	16.8	8.1	2.1	0.8
London SHA	13.8	11.8	5.7	1.5	0.6
South East Coast SHA	20.7	17.9	9.0	2.5	0.9
South Central SHA	17.7	15.1	7.3	1.9	0.7
South West SHA	21.8	18.8	9.4	2.5	0.9

[1] Strategic health authorities based on 2006 boundaries.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2a: Projected population and proportions of population in 2010 by strategic health authority[1] for specific age groups

	2010								
	Total population	Over state pension age		65+		75+		85+	
	Thousand	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage
North East SHA	2,566	532	20.8	448	17.5	210	8.2	55	2.1
North West SHA	6,945	1,387	20.0	1,165	16.8	538	7.7	145	2.1
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	5,217	1,037	19.9	873	16.7	409	7.8	114	2.2
East Midlands SHA	4,433	920	20.8	773	17.4	358	8.1	100	2.3
West Midlands SHA	5,436	1,105	20.3	936	17.2	435	8.0	121	2.2
East SHA	5,698	1,207	21.2	1,017	17.8	487	8.5	140	2.4
London SHA	7,818	1,057	13.5	883	11.3	426	5.4	123	1.6
South East Coast SHA	4,333	947	21.9	802	18.5	396	9.1	120	2.8
South Central SHA	4,025	770	19.1	648	16.1	311	7.7	91	2.3
South West SHA	5,242	1,227	23.4	1,040	19.8	506	9.7	152	2.9

[1] Strategic health authorities based on 2006 boundaries.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2b: Projected population and proportions of population in 2020 by strategic health authority[1] for specific age groups

	2020								
	Total population	Over state pension age		65+		75+		85+	
	Thousand	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage
North East SHA	2,607	627	24.0	540	20.7	249	9.5	72	2.8
North West SHA	7,163	1,620	22.6	1,402	19.6	653	9.1	183	2.6
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	5,507	1,232	22.4	1,067	19.4	500	9.1	145	2.6
East Midlands SHA	4,679	1,127	24.1	982	21.0	461	9.9	132	2.8
West Midlands SHA	5,612	1,283	22.9	1,120	20.0	540	9.6	156	2.8
East SHA	6,034	1,460	24.2	1,278	21.2	615	10.2	185	3.1
London SHA	8,386	1,172	14.0	989	11.8	462	5.5	142	1.7
South East Coast SHA	4,587	1,113	24.3	974	21.2	477	10.4	149	3.3
South Central SHA	4,192	917	21.9	799	19.1	387	9.2	119	2.8
South West SHA	5,577	1,487	26.7	1,303	23.4	634	11.4	193	3.5

[1] Strategic health authorities based on 2006 boundaries.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2c: Projected population and proportions of population in 2029 by strategic health authority[1] for specific age groups

				2029					
	Total population	Over state pension age		65+		75+		83+	
	Thousand	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage
North East SHA	2,638	725	27.5	632	24.0	315	11.9	93	3.5
North West SHA	7,331	1,881	25.7	1,632	22.3	822	11.2	246	3.4
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	5,738	1,450	25.3	1,261	22.0	638	11.1	194	3.4
East Midlands SHA	4,874	1,347	27.6	1,174	24.1	605	12.4	185	3.8
West Midlands SHA	5,749	1,478	25.7	1,288	22.4	670	11.7	212	3.7
East SHA	6,308	1,732	27.5	1,517	24.0	799	12.7	253	4.0
London SHA	8,807	1,386	15.7	1,167	13.2	549	6.2	171	1.9
South East Coast SHA	4,814	1,315	27.3	1,149	23.9	605	12.6	196	4.1
South Central SHA	4,336	1,073	24.8	939	21.6	494	11.4	160	3.7
South West SHA	5,862	1,766	30.1	1,548	26.4	824	14.0	264	4.5

[1] Strategic health authorities based on 2006 boundaries.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors led to HM Revenue and Customs being awarded a Red RAG score by the Office of Government Commerce in 2006. [126854]

Mr. Timms: The OGC have not published any RAG scores for HM Revenue and Customs in 2006.

Small Businesses: EC Countries

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many small and medium-sized UK enterprises have used the STIMUTRAN-SME project. [126907]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The STIMUTRAN-SME project aims to boost innovation and knowledge transfer between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of North West Europe through "Transnational Matching Centres" (TMCs). These will help SMEs develop transnational business activities and help them find compatible business partners in the North West Europe region. Small and medium-sized enterprises from the UK have not yet had the opportunity to benefit from the STIMUTRAN-SME project as the TMCs have not yet commenced operations, but will do so shortly.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost has been to the public purse of the STIMUTRAN-SME project; and how much has been provided by the European Commission to the project. [126908]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The total budget for STIMUTRAN-SME, a North West Europe INTERREG project, is £171,227.47, which is made up of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) of £373,069.18 and £404,158.28 match funding provided by the 10 project partners themselves.

The four UK partners (Southern Area Euro Info Centre; Highland Opportunity Limited; Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Business Link Kent) between them have a total budget for the life span of the project (2006-08) of £235,340.92. 48 per cent. of this is funded by ERDF (£112,963.32). The remainder, £122,377.60, has been provided by the four partners themselves. It is not possible to determine precisely how much of the match funding provided by partners may have originated from the public purse.

Statistics: Constituencies

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has issued guidance to other Government departments on the production of statistics for new parliamentary constituencies. [126442]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to any guidance has been issued to other government departments on the production of statistics for new parliamentary constituencies. (126442)

Firstly please can I refer you to the answer that Colin Mowl gave on my behalf to a closely related question from Roger Gosniff MP (119197) last month (Hansard ref: 19 February 2007, column 233W).

Furthermore there is a draft National Statistics Geography Policy that wherever possible stable geographies should be used as the building blocks for National Statistics. Wherever possible 'exact' outputs should be produced and published first for these core geographies. Outputs for other areas, including parliamentary constituencies, will continue to be released as long as they are required. These will be created either from the source data or via best fitting or estimation from the core units. Hence in principle it should be possible to provide the range of statistics that are currently available for existing parliamentary constituencies.

A boundary commission report detailing the proposed new parliamentary constituencies was laid before parliament on 26 February 2007. There has not yet been a date set for the debates in the House of Commons and House of Lords to discuss and vote on these proposals.

When we know the details of the new constituencies the ONS and other government departments will start producing data for them as resources and work programmes allow.

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide the key statistics for the proposed parliamentary constituencies of *(a)* Ealing Central and Acton and *(b)* Hammersmith Borough from the 2001 census data. [126443]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 March 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking if we will provide key statistics for the proposed parliamentary constituencies of (a) Baling Central and Acton and (b) Hammersmith Borough from the 2001 Census data. (126443)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is currently reviewing the most appropriate manner in which 2001 Census data could be provided for revised constituencies for the UK Parliament in both England and Wales once the boundaries for England are finalised.

The amount of data produced from the 2001 Census for the revised constituencies, and the timing of its release, will depend on available resources and the priority of other Census outputs.

Tax Evasion

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the differences between the tax and duties which should have been paid and those which were paid in 2005-06. [126236]

John Healey: There are no reliable estimates for the difference between the total tax and duties that should have been paid and the amount actually paid in 2005-06.

However, estimates of revenue losses in indirect taxes are available and are reported in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2006", which is published alongside the PBR and can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Taxation: Aviation

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of exempting charities from the requirement to pay air passenger duty. [126544]

John Healey: Air passenger duty increased on 1 February in recognition of the environmental costs of air travel. This will deliver carbon savings of around 0.3MtC a year by 2010-11, or around 0.75MtC per year by 2010-11 when the effect of non-carbon dioxide emissions at high altitude is taken into account.

The Government are committed to supporting charities and the third sector through a range of tax reliefs and other measures. In 2005-06, tax reliefs for the charitable sector were worth in excess of £2.5 billion.

Given the level of support already extended to charities through the tax system and the administrative structure of air passenger duty the Government does not currently believe that an air passenger duty exemption would be appropriate.

The Chancellor keeps all taxation policy under review, and considers all relevant economic, social and environmental factors in deciding future policy.

Tobacco: Smuggling

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of lost revenue to his Department due to tobacco smuggling from other EU states. [126240]

John Healey: It is not possible to estimate the level of tobacco smuggling solely from other EU states. Estimates are only produced on the revenue loss from smuggling originating from within and outside of the EU combined.

The estimated revenue loss to the Exchequer (duty plus VAT) on cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco due to fraud, smuggling and counterfeiting for 2000-01 to 2004-05 is reported in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2006" published by HMRC in December 2006 and is available in the House of Commons Library.

HEALTH

Breast Feeding

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of women who breastfed their babies for the first six months in each year since 1995. [126156]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national infant feeding survey conducted every five years provides information on the percentage of women breastfeeding their babies for the first six months. Both the 1995 and 2000 survey showed that 22 per cent. of the women breastfed their babies for the first six months in England and Wales as compared to 21 per cent. in the United Kingdom. Figures for the prevalence of breastfeeding each year are not available.

The results of the national infant feeding survey 2005 are expected to be published in summer 2007.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to undertake an appraisal of the

kidney cancer drugs *(a)* Sutent and *(b)* Nexavar; what responsibilities primary care trusts have to make these drugs available to patients; and if she will make a statement. [125213]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* The Department has asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to consult on the remit and scope for an appraisal of Nexavar for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma. A final decision on referral of this topic to NICE will be made in April 2007. The Department is currently considering referring Sutent to NICE for appraisal.

In December 2006, the Department issued good practice guidance to the national health service on the managed introduction of new technologies. The guidance updates and clarifies the messages in an earlier Health Service Circular 1999/176 and makes clear to NHS organisations that they should not refuse to fund a treatment simply because NICE guidance does not yet exist. Until NICE has issued final guidance on a treatment, NHS bodies should continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies, taking account of the available evidence.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the financial impact on the NHS of positive National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisals for medicines for *(a)* lung cancer, *(b)* breast cancer, *(c)* prostate cancer, *(d)* bowel cancer and *(e)* less common cancers in each year since NICE was established. [123646]

Caroline Flint: Each technology appraisal published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) contains an estimate of the cost to the national health service of its implementation. The table sets out NICE's published cost impact estimates for appraisals in the relevant topic areas, up to February 2007.

Technology appraisal	*Date of issue*	*NICE estimates of full-year costs—England (£ million)*
Breast cancer		
Taxanes for breast cancer	June 2000	16
Taxanes for breast cancer—review	September 2001	[1]0
Trastuzumab for breast cancer	March 2002	17
Vinorelbine for breast cancer	December 2002	6.5
Capecitabine for locally advanced breast cancer	May 2003	-1.2
Trastuzumab for the adjuvant treatment of early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer	August 2006	99.8
Docetaxel for early breast cancer	September 2006	8.8
Paclitaxel for early breast cancer	September 2006	[1]0
Hormonal treatments for early breast cancer	November 2006	17.4
Gemcitabine for metastatic breast cancer	January 2007	0.08
Prostate cancer		
Docetaxel for hormone refractory prostate cancer	June 2006	19.9
Bowel cancer		
Laparoscopic surgery for colorectal cancer	January 2001	[1]0
Capecitabine and tegafur with uracil for metastatic colorectal cancer	May 2003	-16
Capecitabine and oxaliplatin in the adjuvant treatment of stage III (Dukes' C) colon cancer	April 2006	10.3
Irinotecan, oxaliplatin and raltitrexed for advanced colorectal cancer—review	August 2005	56
Laparoscopic surgery for colorectal cancer	August 2006	0.8
Bevacizumab and cetuximab for metastatic colorectal cancer	January 2007	[1]0
Less common cancers		
Taxanes for ovarian cancer	May 2000	7
Liquid Based Cytology for cervical screening	June 2000	[1]0
Temozolomide for brain cancer	April 2001	1
Gemcitabine for pancreatic cancer	May 2001	1.9
Topotecan for advanced ovarian cancer	August 2001	7
Fludarabine for B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	September 2001	[1]0
Rituximab for follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	March 2002	[1]0
PLDH (Caelyx) for ovarian cancer	July 2002	3.1
Imatinib for chronic myeloid leukaemia	October 2002	15.8
Paclitaxel for ovarian cancer	January 2003	[1]0
Rituximab for aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	September 2003	13.15
Liquid-based cytology for cervical screening—review	October 2003	10.1-10.3
Imatinib for chronic myeloid leukaemia	October 2003	5
Imatinib for gastro-intestinal stromal tumours (GIST)	October 2004	4.7

Technology appraisal	Date of issue	NICE estimates of full-year costs—England (£ million)
Paclitaxel, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin hydrochloride and topotecan for ovarian cancer (advanced)—review	May 2005	2.25
Rituximab for follicular lymphoma	September 2006	3.4
Fludarabine monotherapy for the first-line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	February 2007	0

[1] Not considered to have significant cost implications.

Cancer: Northern Region

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding *(a)* Cumbria primary care trust and *(b)* each other primary care trust in the north of England has been allocated for cancer treatment in 2006-07. [123257]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not hold information centrally on levels of local funding allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for cancer treatment. However around £3.4 billion was spent on cancer services in 2003-04 and this increased by 12 per cent. each year to around £3.8 billion in 2004-05, and £4.3 billion in 2005-06.

National health service funding is allocated to PCTs to meet the health needs of their local population, who in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for cancer services.

The following table shows the allocations to PCTs in the north of England for 2006-07.

Primary care trust	Revenue allocation 2006-07 (£ million)
Cumbria	632.5
North Lancashire	418.8
Blackpool	213.8
Central Lancashire	556.4
East Lancashire	506.2
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching	207.7
Sefton	389.7
Wirral	459.5
Liverpool	733.2
Knowsley	243.4
Halton and St. Helens	434.7
Warrington	237.1
Western Cheshire	303.8
Central and Eastern Cheshire	522.8
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	410.7
Bolton	355.3
Bury	226.7
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	288.7
Salford Teaching	346.8
Trafford	275.4
Manchester	736.0
Oldham	304.1
Tameside and Glossop	308.6
Stockport	349.9
North Yorkshire and York	870.0
East Riding of Yorkshire	345.7
Hull Teaching	371.3
North Lincolnshire	190.4
North East Lincolnshire	210.4
Rotherham	330.2
Doncaster	401.6
Sheffield	721.8
Barnsley	319.9
Wakefield	444.5
Kirklees	485.1
Calderdale	254.6
Bradford and Airedale Teaching	655.5
Leeds	952.0
County Durham	711.8
Northumberland Care Trust	399.1
Sunderland Teaching	413.3
Newcastle	386.4
North Tyneside	273.2
Gateshead	286.7
North Tees	228.1
South Tyneside	223.0
Middlesbrough	208.8
Redcar and Cleveland	189.4
Darlington	136.4
Hartlepool	131.9

Care Homes: Expenditure

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure was of each London borough on *(a)* residential care homes and *(b)* nursing homes for the elderly in each of the last five years. [125620]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the gross current expenditure for residential care by type of care for people aged 65 and over by each London borough for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 has been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of care home residents have their care *(a)* partially and *(b)* fully funded by (i) local authorities and (ii) primary care trusts. [126546]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As at 31 March 2006, there were 259,000 supported care home residents funded fully or in part by councils with social services responsibilities (CSSRs)[1]. Information on the total numbers of care and nursing home residents, including those funding the entire cost of their care, is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of residents whose care is funded fully or in part by primary care trusts (PCTs) is not collected centrally. However, at 31 March 2006, 117,939 people[2] in England were in receipt of national health service funded nursing care, which is funded by PCTs.

At 31 March 2006, 25,008 people were in receipt of NHS funded continuing care and therefore have their care costs met in full by the NHS.

[1] Source—Information Centre on health and social care.

[2] Some of this number will be included in the 259,000 whose care is partly or fully funded by CSSRs.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each primary care trust (i) were called for and (ii) attended cervical screening in each of the last five years, broken down by age. [124396]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The uptake of national health service cervical screening programme invitations is not collected nationally and comparing the number of women invited with the number of women screened would not give an accurate account of uptake of invitations, as the figures for the number of women screened also include self and general practitioner referral (for example, those not invited by the screening programme). Because of this we have provided five-year coverage figures, which has been placed in the Library.

Coverage is the standard calculation used to compare primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs). The coverage of the screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible who have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous five years.

2001-02 data are not available for PCTs and SHAs due to their formation in 2002. For this reason 2001-02 data are at England level.

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will direct the Joint Committee on Vaccinations to meet to consider recommendations from its sub-group on Gardasil to ensure that the vaccine is rolled out during 2007-08. [124397]

Caroline Flint: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) human papilloma virus (HPV) subgroup met on 28 February to review the available information on the protective effect of the vaccine against cervical cancer, and the safety of HPV vaccines. Further work is ongoing to evaluate whether the vaccine is considered to be a cost-effective prevention of cervical cancer; and the impact that HPV vaccine may have on genital warts.

The sub group's advice will be reported to the main JCVI committee for further discussion. No decisions will be taken on introducing these vaccines into the immunisation programme until the main JCVI present their advice to Ministers for their consideration.

Childbirth: Durham

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* underweight and *(b)* premature babies were born in (i) County Durham and (ii) the City of Durham in the last year for which figures are available; and how many in each category were born in 1997. [126174]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Community Nurses: Shropshire

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* district and *(b)* community nurses have been employed by Shropshire primary care trust in each year since 1997. [123052]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the format requested. The table shows qualified community nursing staff by level in the Shropshire primary care trust as at 30 September for each specified year.

Headcount

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
All qualified community nursing staff	511	558	605	616
District Nurses	89	116	106	52
Health Visitors	89	87	92	75
School Nursing Service Nurses	—	—	—	19
Of which:				
Nurses with a school nursing qualification	—	—	—	2
Other Qualified Community Services Nurses	115	139	141	190
Practice Nurses	122	114	138	135
Community Learning Disabilities Nurses	11	12	12	11
Community Psychiatric Nurses	85	90	116	134

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Contraceptives

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department expects to publish the findings of the Contraceptive Services Audit; and if she will make a statement on the findings of the audit. [124454]

Caroline Flint: The findings of the Baseline Review of Contraceptive Services 2005 (Contraceptive Services Audit) will be published shortly and we are developing best practice guidance on reproductive healthcare which will address the key issues arising from the review.

Dementia: Medical Treatments

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department recommends anti-cholinisterease inhibitors for the treatment of people with dementia displaying challenging behaviour symptoms. [126452]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline states that anti-cholinesterase inhibitors are recommended as options in the management of people with Alzheimer's disease of moderate severity only.

It also recommends that people with dementia who develop non-cognitive symptoms or behaviour that challenges should be offered a pharmacological intervention in the first instance only if they are severely distressed or there is an immediate risk of harm to the person or others.

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients accessed primary care dental services in each quarter since the quarter ending June 2004 *(a)* in England and *(b)* broken down by primary care trust area. [123140]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on patients accessing national health service dental services is not held centrally for each quarter and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on patients seen in the last 24 months is published quarterly and has been placed in the Library, at England, strategic health authority and primary care trust level. This statistic has been published since March 2006.

Data for the new primary care trusts will be published on 23 March 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what total patient charge revenue income her Department expects each primary care trust to receive in 2006-07 through the delivery of primary dental services. [124938]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A table listing the primary dental service resource allocations for 2006-07 for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England as at 31 July 2006 is available in the Library. This sets out the net allocations awarded to PCTs and the assumed gross budgets based on illustrative assumptions about levels of patient charge income for each PCT. Strategic health authorities agreed with their PCTs locally how these allocations would be redistributed within the new PCT areas that took effect from 1 October 2006.

A number of factors may affect the actual levels of patient charge income in a financial year, including the annual number of units of dental activity commissioned by PCTs, the time needed for new dental services to be commissioned and to come into operation, the timeliness of the reports submitted by dentists on completed courses of treatment, changes in the mix of charge-paying and charge-exempt patients treated, and the incidence of certain charge-free courses of treatment for patients who would normally pay charges.

Departments: Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions and on what dates her Department has been represented at a meeting of the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group since May 2004. [124096]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 28 February 2007]:* The establishment of the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) was recommended by the 2005 Perry Nove Review on the Police National Missing Persons Bureau. This review proposed the establishment of a permanent oversight group drawn from statutory bodies and the voluntary sector. The SOG has met twice: firstly, on 22 March 2006 and, secondly on 6 November 2006.

The Department and the Department for Education and Skills attended the second of these meetings. The Home Office has been represented at both meetings. In addition to SOG meetings, all three Departments have ongoing bilateral contact with other stakeholders represented on the SOG.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which future projects her Department is considering a private finance initiative deal; what the estimated lifetime value of each potential contract is; and what period each will cover. [125185]

Andy Burnham: The following private finance initiative schemes are awaiting a formal review by the Department as part of the reappraisal process.

PFI scheme	*Pre-review estimated capital value (£ million)*
Hillingdon Hospital	338
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	144
North West London Hospitals—Northwick Park	305
Southend Hospital	100
Taunton and Somerset	79
Papworth Hospitals	148
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals—2010	500
West Hertfordshire Hospitals	330
East and North Hertfordshire	350
Southampton University Hospitals	69
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals	500
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital	300
Leeds Teaching Hospitals—Children's	260
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals	200
United Bristol Healthcare	104
Mersey Care	170
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals	317

As the schemes yet to be reviewed are at a very early stage in the procurement process, it is not yet possible to estimate the likely annual payment and therefore total sum payable of the lifetime of the contract. Under the national health service standard form contract

(introduced in 1999) the standard contract length exclusive of build period is 30 years, although this can be varied on a case-by-case basis subject to the agreement of the Department.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of her Department's budget was taken up by private finance initiative commitments in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and if she will make a statement; [125196]

(2) what percentage of her Department's budget will be taken up by public finance initiative commitments in each of the next 10 years, assuming that the budget grows in line with the Treasury's estimates for gross domestic product over the period; and if she will make a statement. [125197]

Andy Burnham: The first private finance initiative (PFI) scheme become operational in 2000. There are therefore no payments prior to this date.

Revenue figures are not available beyond 2007-08 as the Department has not yet entered into its Comprehensive Spending Review with HM Treasury. It is therefore not possible to forecast annual payments under PFI as a percentage of overall revenue expenditure.

The information is detailed in the following table.

		Net NHS revenue expenditure (£ million)	*Aggregated payments under PFI (£ million)*	*PFI payments as a percentage of overall NHS revenue expenditure*
2000-01	Outturn	42,686	59	0.14
2001-02	Outturn	47,289	187	0.40
2002-03	Outturn	51,935	262	0.50
2003-04	Outturn	61,583	357	0.58
2004-05	Outturn	66,473	382	0.57
2005-06	Estimated Outturn	73,697	469	0.64
2006-07	Planned	79,179	619	0.78
2007-08	Planned	85,974	728	0.85

Departments: Royal Visits

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2003 between HRH the Prince of Wales and the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health; [126663]

(2) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* outcomes were of the meeting on 24 February 2003 between HRH the Prince of Wales and the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health. [126664]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* A meeting was held on 24 February 2003 between HRH the Prince of Wales and the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, for Health (Lord Hunt of Kings Heath).

Departments: Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money from the public purse *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies gave to (i) the Smith Institute and (ii) its subsidiary SI Events Limited in each year since 1997; and for what purpose each payment was made. [123091]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not paid either the Smith institute or SI Events Limited since 2002. Financial data for the years prior to this have been archived and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's agencies have not made any payments to either organisation.

Emergent BioSolutions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments from the public purse were made to Emergent BioSolutions in each of the last three years. [125938]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has made no payments to Emergent BioSolutions in the last three years.

Executive Agencies

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent by each of her Department's executive agencies in each Government Office region in the most recent year for which figures are available; [116669]

(2) which of the executive agencies of her Department have regional offices outside London. [116724]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has two executive agencies. These are:

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA does not hold records of spend in each of the government regions. The MHRA have no regional offices outside London; and

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA). PASA does not hold records of spend in each of the government regions. PASA has three offices in Chester, Reading and Sheffield. The office in Reading is also the agency's head office. They are not regional offices as such but from where business is undertaken.

Folic Acid

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has received from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition regarding the compulsory fortification of flour with folic acid; and if she will make a statement. [124143]

Caroline Flint: in December 2006, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) recommended mandatory fortification of folic acid as the most effective way to reduce the risk of pregnancies affected by neural tube defects (NTD), providing voluntary fortification of food with folic acid is controlled and guidance is provided on the use of supplements containing folic acid.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is currently consulting on different options to improve the folate status of young women in order to reduce the number of NTD-affected pregnancies.

The FSA Board will consider SACN's recommendation and the responses from the public consultation in May 2007. It will then provide advice to Health Ministers regarding mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the effects of devolving budget responsibilities to GPs on the quality of patient care. [126736]

Andy Burnham: General practices have been devolved indicative budgets under practice-based commissioning (PBC). By December 2006, all primary care trusts had arrangements in place to support PBC, including providing indicative practice budgets. No full assessment has yet been made of the effects of PBC, but the Department has in place support to drive forward the practical implementation of PBC and a monitoring framework to assess the impact of PBC on patient care and service development.

Health Education: Carbon Monoxide

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to raise awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning; and if she will make a statement. [125858]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend, the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin) on 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 911-12W.

The Department is committed to help prevent deaths caused by carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and raise awareness of the dangers of CO poisoning. Specific recent actions to achieve this include publications to increase awareness of medical staff and the public.

In his January 2006 update, which is sent to all doctors registered with the General Medical Council in England, including hospital and A & E doctors, and copied to the devolved Administrations for information, the chief medical officer (CMO) provides advice to doctors on CO poisoning, which is available in the Library. CMO updates are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/CMOUpdate/CMOUpdateArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4126235&chk=y6qnQn

The Department has produced a public information leaflet "Indoor air pollution—Carbon monoxide. Risks to health and how to avoid them," distributed early in 2006 to all general practitioners surgeries in England, which provides information on the symptoms of CO poisoning, ways in which to prevent poisoning and the contact details of organisations and other Government Departments involved with the prevention of CO poisoning. This leaflet has been endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Heating Equipment Testing and Approval Scheme, the Council for Registered Gas Installers (CORGI), the national voluntary organisation CO-Gas Safety, the Solid Fuel Association, and the national health service, and includes the CORGI emergency helpline. The leaflet, which is available in the Library, is also available free, from the Department's publication stores and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4123787&chk=sAoYSp

The Department has produced a booklet "Keep Warm Keep Well, a winter guide 2006-07", which among many subjects, contains useful advice on the maintenance of heating appliances and protection from CO poisoning, which is available in the Library. This has been widely distributed and is also available from the Department's publication stores and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/HealthAndSocialCareArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4076849&chk=N3IuFO

The Department is also funding a national voluntary organisation, CO-Gas Safety, through the section 64 General Scheme of Grants, in its work in raising awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide.

As part of the HSE's "Review of Domestic Gas Safety", a cross-Government group, which includes officials from my Department, has been set up to consolidate the valuable work that is being done, and to help further raise awareness, particularly through encouraging greater co-ordinated industry actions.

Health Services: Detention Centres

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what allowance is made in formula funding for the treatment of detainees in asylum detention centres. [127089]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* The weighted-capitation formula, used to inform revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), does not take specific account of detainees in Immigration Service removal centres. However, migration is taken account of within the population base used for revenue allocations. The population base is a combination of Office for National Statistics (ONS) populations and general practitioners lists. ONS add asylum seekers to their population estimates using data provided by the Home Office. All removal centres have primary healthcare provision on site. National health service services are only used, therefore, when detainees cannot be treated within the on-site Home Office funded primary care services.

Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting times for digital hearing aid *(a)* assessment and *(b)* fitting are in London, broken down by primary care trust. [123588]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table shows data on the waiting times for audiology assessments as at end of December 2006. The Department does not collect data on fitting of aids.

Organisation name	*Total waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*
Havering PCT	3,149	42.3
Kingston PCT	465	19.1
Bromley PCT	171	4.9
Greenwich PCT	676	33.0
Barnet PCT	164	7.8
Hillingdon PCT	127	5.1
Enfield PCT	22	7.7
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,463	27.1
City and Hackney PCT	93	7.7
Tower Hamlets PCT	59	13.0
Newham PCT	143	5.8
Haringey PCT	79	7.3
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	101	16.7
Ealing PCT	465	22.7
Hounslow PCT	19	16.9
Brent PCT	50	7.7
Harrow PCT	21	12.0
Camden PCT	75	6.7
Islington PCT	44	7.2
Croydon PCT	1,329	25.9
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	101	16.2
Westminster PCT	140	14.5
Lambeth PCT	650	25.1
South[illegible]k PCT	567	29.9
Le[illegible]	241	13.0
Wand[illegible]CT	405	8.7
Richmond Twickenha[illegible]	96	14.5
Sutton and [illegible]n PCT	2,246	48.2
Redbridge PCT	204	8.3
Waltham Forest PCT	139	6.2
Bexley Care Trust	324	14.1

Source:
Department, DM01

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what target her Department has set for the length of time a patient should wait for a digital hearing aid to be fitted. [124648]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national audiology framework "Improving Access to Audiology Services" in England, was published on 6 March 2007 and is available in the Library. It sets out clear guidance to the national health service on how to reduce waiting times and how to provide the additional 300,000 pathways that are needed in the run-up to December 2008 to make a maximum wait of 18 weeks from referral to treatment possible for all audiology referrals. It aims to mitigate the risk to 18-week delivery and create a sustainable service model for audiology for the long term.

The most complex audiology cases will be covered by the target of treatment within 18 weeks of referral by December 2008. And the remaining routine adult hearing loss cases should be assessed within six weeks by March 2008, in line with the diagnostic waiting time milestone on which local commissioning plans are based. It is also good practice for the subsequent hearing aid fitting to be carried out soon after or at the same time as assessment.

Home Births

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what targets the Government have set for home deliveries in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban settings over the next five years; [126163]

(2) what plans she has to provide further support for those mothers who wish their babies to be delivered at home. [126164]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We cannot set targets for home births. It is for local primary care trusts and national health service trusts to determine the appropriate pattern of service provision locally, taking into account the choice and needs of local people.

The Government are committed to offering, by 2009, all women the choice of how and where they give birth, for example a birth at home, a birth supported by a midwife or a birth supported by a team of clinicians including a midwife and an obstetrician. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is preparing guidelines on intrapartum care, due to be published in June 2007, which will include guidance on home births.

We will shortly be publishing a document on the delivery of the maternity commitments made in the manifesto and in "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", which, when published, will focus on providing continuing support and safe maternity services for all women.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum period of time is for which her Department permits primary care trusts to close beds on a temporary basis. [122537]

Andy Burnham: Decisions on whether to close beds permanently or otherwise are made locally.

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health after what period of time her Department deems the temporary closure and removal of beds a permanent closure. [122558]

Andy Burnham: Decisions on whether to close beds permanently or otherwise are made locally.

Hospitals: Acute Beds

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospitals there are in England; how many beds there are in each; and which are *(a)* tertiary care centres, *(b)* specialist units and *(c)* district general hospitals. [125581]

Andy Burnham: The Department maintains no official definition of acute hospital and is aware of no body with the responsibility to define it.

Data on hospital beds are collected at trust, rather than hospital level. Further, the Department does not centrally collect whether beds are located in tertiary care centres, specialist units or district general hospitals.

A table which shows the average daily number of available hospital beds in 2005-06 (the latest year's data) for national health service organisations that provided acute beds has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Admissions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts carried out public and patient consultation in accordance with section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act prior to introducing referral management schemes. [121924]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally. The use of referral management schemes is for local determination.

Hospitals: Construction

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what major hospital building projects were approved in each of the last five years, broken down by parliamentary constituency; and if she will make a statement. [124187]

Andy Burnham: The tables give details of hospital building projects with a capital value of over £58.7 million (the threshold conventionally used to denote a 'major' scheme at 2006-07 prices) which have had full business case approval or have been approved to proceed to the next stage following the private finance review.

Schemes which have had full business case approval

Constituency[1]	*Hospital scheme*	*Capital value at 2006-07 prices (£ million)*	*Year approved*	*Status*
Coventry North East	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	416	2002	Operational
Blackburn	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	117	2003	Operational
Brent,	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	74	2003	Operational
Oxford East	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	134	2003	Operational
Wolverhampton North East	The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	61	2003	Operational
Basildon	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust	63	2003	Under construction
Derby, South	Derby Hospitals NHS Trust	333	2003	Under construction
Oxford, East	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	129	2003	Under construction
Across many	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	89	2004	Operational
Lewisham West	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	75	2004	Operational
Putney	Wandsworth Primary Care NHS Trust	79	2004	Operational
Romford	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	254	2004	Operational
Cambridge	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	80	2004	Under construction
Leeds Central	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	277	2004	Under construction
Manchester Central	Central Manchester and Manchester Childrens Hospitals NHS Trust	535	2004	Under construction
Ashfield	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	326	2005	Under construction
Newcastle Upon Tyne East and Wallsend and Newcastle Upon Tyne Central	Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	299	2005	Under construction
Portsmouth North	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	236	2005	Under construction
Bethnal Green and Bow	St. Barts and the London NHS Trust	1000	2006	Under construction
Birmingham, Edgbaston	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust	627	2006	Under construction
Bristol West	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust/North Bristol NHS Trust	64	2006	Under construction
Holborn and St. Pancras	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	75	2006	Under construction
Kingston Upon Hull West and Hessle	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	67	2006	Under construction
St. Helens, North and St. Helens, South	St. Helens Hospitals NHS Trust	338	2006	Under construction

Schemes which have been given approval to proceed to the next stage following the private finance review

Constituency[1]	*Hospital scheme*	*Capital value at 2006-07 prices (£ million)*	*Year approved*	*Status*
Denton and Reddish	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	109	2006	Appointed preferred bidder
Leicester, East	University Hospital Leicester NHS Trust	711	2006	Appointed preferred bidder
Newcastle-Under-Lyme	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	272	2006	Appointed preferred bidder

Schemes which have been given approval to proceed to the next stage following the private finance review

Constituency[1]	Hospital scheme	Capital value at 2006-07 prices (£ million)	Year approved	Status
Salford	Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	190	2006	Appointed preferred bidder
Walsall, South	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	141	2006	Appointed preferred bidder
Edmonton	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	111	2007	Appointed preferred bidder
Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford	Mid Yorkshire NHS Hospitals NHS Trust	343	2007	Appointed preferred bidder
Peterborough	Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust	282	2007	Appointed preferred bidder
West Chelmsford	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	143	2007	Appointed preferred bidder
Torbay	South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	163	2006	Shortlisted bidders
Colne Valley	Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust	78	2007	Shortlisted bidders
Tunbridge Wells	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	225	2007	Shortlisted bidders
Bristol, North West	Bristol North and South Gloucester Primary Care Trusts	310	2007	Pre-procurement

[1] These are the constituencies principally affected by the scheme i.e. those containing a significant element of new build or refurbishment.

Hospitals: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deferred operations there were at hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [125671]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the table.

Cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons, national health service organisations in Lancashire, 2002-03 to 2006-07

Organisation	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[1]
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	671	763	576	428	199
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	682	657	589	469	244
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	389	440	406	460	341
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	400	388	309	462	258
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	62	61	73	89	107

[1] Data for 2006-07 are for the first three quarters only

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMCO

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was raised from parking fees by each health authority in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [124306]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is in the table.

The figures provided represent the gross income received from parking fees paid by staff and visitors at national health service organisations in Lancashire where information is available.

NHS organisation	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Healthcare NHS Trust (merged to form East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust in 2003-04)	297,790	276,072	—	—	—
Burnley Healthcare NHS Trust (merged to form East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust in 2003-04)	218,800	221,500	—	—	—
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (established 2003-04)	—	—	499,572	211,000	224,289
Blackpool Victoria Hospital NHS Trust (renamed Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust in 2002-03)	418,000	—	—	—	—
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust (established 2002-03)	—	418,000	518,000	540,000	566,925
Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (merged to form Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in 2002-03)	395,479	—	—	—	—
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (established 2002-03)	—	627,549	924,927	969,886	1,288,080
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	205,604	233,300	394,901	426,739	495,419
West Lancashire Primary Care Trust	5,952	9,000	—	17,394	19,053

The information is as provided by NHS organisations without amendment. Since 2004-05, it has been provided on a voluntary basis and may therefore be incomplete.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the waiting times milestones agreed with strategic health authorities referred to in the answer of

9 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1777W, on waiting lists/times, remain in place; what percentage of those waiting for *(a)* out-patient appointments waiting longer than 11 weeks, *(b)* diagnostic tests waited longer than 13 weeks and *(c)* in-patient appointments waited longer than 20 weeks in the most recent period for which figures are available. [125034]

Andy Burnham: The data requested are shown in the table. The majority of those patients that are waiting over 13 weeks for a diagnostic test are waiting for audiology assessments, on which we published a framework for action on 6 March.

By December 2008, patients can expect a maximum wait of 18 weeks from general practitioner referral to the start of consultant-led treatment, with most patients treated much more quickly. The referral-to-treatment (RTT) milestones are: by March 2008, 85 per cent. within 18 weeks for admitted patients (whose treatment requires a stay in hospital) and 90 per cent. for non-admitted patients (whose treatment is completed without a hospital stay).

The framework of milestones for individual stages of treatment, agreed with strategic health authorities, remains in place and is central to the current planning round for 2007-08. Performance against the RTT milestones will take precedence over the individual stages of treatment.

Month end	*Stage of treatment*	*Relevant milestone (weeks)*	*Total number waiting*	*Number waiting over milestone*	*Percentage waiting over milestone*
December 2006	Diagnostic test	13	814,360	191,385	23.5
January 2007	Out-patient appointment	11	957,929	21,840	2.3
January 2007	In-patient admission	20	754,992	44,622	5.9

Source:
Department of Health QF01, QM08 and DM01

Injuries: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she plans to take in response to the Audit Commission report on preventing unintentional injury to children; and if she will make a statement; [127297]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the potential contribution of a national roll-out of the injury minimisation programme pioneered at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford to the reduction of unintentional injury to children. [127299]

Caroline Flint: Preventing unintentional injury to children is a cross-Government and cross-disciplinary matter. The Department will consider the recommendations of the Audit Commission's report in partnership with other Government Departments. Specific injury minimisation programmes should be considered by local authorities and health care organisations when commissioning services.

London PCTs: Outstanding Loans

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many London primary care trusts (PCTs) have outstanding loans from her Department; and how much each such PCT has repaid to her Department in *(a)* principal and *(b)* interest payments in each year since 1997. [114174]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Primary care trusts (PCTs) do not have the legal powers to borrow from the Department or elsewhere.

Lung Cancer

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer centres in England participated in the recent national lung cancer audit; and what percentage of centres this represents. [122540]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 154 out of 200 eligible hospitals recently participated in the national lung cancer audit. It covered 77 per cent. of hospitals providing lung cancer services in England.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration she has given to *(a)* mandating and *(b)* building into the commissioning process a requirement on NHS trusts to submit data to the national lung cancer audit. [122542]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Clinical Audit Support Programme (NCASP) is commissioned by the Healthcare Commission to manage national clinical audits including the national lung cancer audit (LUCADA). The Healthcare Commission is not currently planning to make participation in audits mandatory. However, the Healthcare Commission conducts an annual health check of national health service organisations and since 2005-06 has been using participation in national clinical audits as part of the health check for NHS trusts. The Healthcare Commission is currently considering whether to include measurement not only of participation in audits, but also of data completeness and quality in its annual health check.

The Department is currently developing a cancer reform strategy. In developing the strategy, the Department is specifically looking at how to strengthen commissioning of cancer services and how to improve the information available on clinical outcomes. Discussions are under way on improving clinical outcomes data including the use of comparative information such as that provided through the NCASP audits. We expect to publish the cancer reform strategy by the end of the year.

Maternity Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has taken steps to support the midwifery model being developed by the Independent Midwives Association. [122716]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine which models best suit the local needs of women and the midwifery work force. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of maternity services.

Ministers and officials have met with the Independent Midwives Association (IMA) over the past three years to discuss their proposal of a national health service community midwifery model. Following on from these discussions, the IMA has identified a group of midwives and PCTs who are willing to test the model and help to create an outline contract. That process is continuing.

Medical Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how patients will opt out of having *(a)* their detailed patient record and *(b)* their summary patient record uploaded to the spine. [121951]

Caroline Flint: The spine is the colloquial name given to the national database of key information about patients' health and care which forms the core of the NHS care records service, and which, from later this year, will begin to hold summary care records. Detailed patient records are created, and can be held electronically, in a variety of national health service organisations, depending on where patients have received treatment. They are accessed locally, and will not, unlike summary records, be uploaded on to the spine.

It will be open to individuals to choose not to have a summary care record through discussion with their general practitioner (GP). General practices will be responsible for entering care records on the system, and by the time the summary care record is introduced in local areas general practitioners will have been provided with guidance on what they need to do to respond to requests. GPs will be advised to record and act on patient preferences.

We believe that holding summary care records on the spine will deliver very significant benefits for safety and the efficient management of NHS services, improving healthcare outcomes for millions whilst preventing thousands of unnecessary deaths. Inevitably patients whose record was not held on the spine, and who might need to be treated in the absence of knowledge of the information they contain, would not receive the same quality of care as others.

Midwives: Manpower

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the numbers of midwives needed by the NHS *(a)* now and *(b)* over the next five years. [126165]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for local planners with support from the workforce review team to determine their future requirement for midwives to meet local service needs.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08, requires all national health service organisations to undertake a comprehensive review of their maternity services, including the workforce capacity, as preparation for the delivery of maternity commitments outlined in 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' by 2009.

Ministerial Visits

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which countries she visited on official business in 2006. [113424]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State visited the United States of America on official business on 1-3 November 2006. My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Health Services covers international and European business within her portfolio, and has undertaken several official visits throughout 2006.

Motor Neurone Disease

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she has consulted the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the evaluation of non-invasive ventilation treatment for motor neurone disease; [123522]

(2) if she will make a statement on the timetable for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's investigation into non-invasive ventilation; and when she expects to publish the findings. [123523]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) considered non-invasive ventilation as part of its interventional procedures programme but concluded that this procedure fell outside the institute's remit on interventional procedures. Decisions on the use of non-invasive ventilation in motor neurone disease are most appropriately taken by individual patients and their clinicians.

National Media Evaluations

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library copies of her Department's national media coverage evaluations in each month since January 2006. [114999]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since August 2005, the Department has published its media evaluation reports as part of the Department's wider commitment to freedom of information on its website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/FreedomOfInformation/ClassesOfInformation/CommunicationsResearch/fs/en

These reports are released every six months. Publication of the next set of national media evaluation reports covering January to June 2006 is scheduled for May and when this happens we will arrange for hard copies to be placed in the Library.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was per call for dealing with calls to NHS Direct in the most recent period for which figures are available. [123152]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1086-7W, on NHS Finance, whether the full budget for commissioning specialised services transferred from her Department to the NHS will be ring-fenced. [112561]

Andy Burnham: The budget for nationally commissioned healthcare services transferring from the Department to the national health service in 2007-08 will not be ring-fenced. NHS London will host the services on the principle that it will bear no financial risk or benefit. The budget will be transferred from the Department to primary care trusts (PCTs) pro rata to weighted capitation targets and then transferred immediately on the same basis to NHS London. Any variation from budget will be managed through in-year transfers between NHS London and PCTs.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 672-73W, on NHS foundation trusts, what proportion of residents in foundation trust catchment areas are members of foundation trusts. [124536]

Andy Burnham: Information relating to the proportion of residents who are members of foundation trusts is not held by Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) or the Department.

I am advised by the chairman of Monitor that as part of their annual plan submissions to Monitor, national health service foundation trusts are required to report on their plans for securing representative membership. The plans for the 2006-07 financial year are available on Monitor's website at www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk

As part of their 2007-08 annual plan submissions to Monitor, NHS foundation trusts will be required to include a more in-depth report on their membership, including an analysis of current membership of the public constituency and a comparison with eligible membership by age, ethnicity and socio-economic groupings. The 2007-08 annual plans are due to be considered by Monitor's board in July 2007, following which they will be published on Monitor's website.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospital trusts are applying for foundation trust status. [126119]

Andy Burnham: The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 provides that an national health service trust may make an application to Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) for consideration for authorisation as an NHS foundation trust (NHSFT), if the application is supported by the Secretary of State.

I am advised by the chairman of Monitor that it is currently considering 27 applications from NHS trusts for NHSFT status. Of the 27, nine applications have been deferred from earlier waves, either at the request of the trusts themselves, or by Monitor's board. Applications cannot normally be deferred for a period of more than one year. The remaining 18 trusts received Secretary of State support in December 2006 to go forward to Monitor for potential authorisation from spring 2007 onwards.

A further 12 trusts are preparing to submit an application for NHSFT status to Monitor in 2007. Subject to receiving Secretary of State's support, these trusts will apply to Monitor to be considered for authorisation from summer 2007. Further waves are set to follow.

A list is provided in the following table:

Application status		*Trust*
Trusts deferred from earlier waves (by Monitor or self deferring)	1	Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust
	2	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust
	3	Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust
	4	North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
	5	North Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust
	6	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
	7	St Helen's and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust
	8	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust
	9	York Hospitals NHS Trust
Trusts approved by Secretary of State for potential authorisation by Monitor	1	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust
	2	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust
	3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust
	4	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust
	5	Christie Hospital NHS Trust
	6	Cumbria Partnership NHS Trust
	7	Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust
	8	Dorset Health Care NHS Trust
	9	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust
	10	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust
	11	Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust
	12	Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Application status		Trust
	13	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
	14	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
	15	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust
	16	Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust
	17	West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust
	18	Wirral Hospital NHS Trust
Trusts preparing to submit an application to Secretary of State	1	Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust
	2	Blackpool, Flyde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust
	3	Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust
	4	Derbyshire MH NHS Trust
	5	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust
	6	Lancashire Care NHS Trust
	7	Lincolnshire Partnerships NHS Trust
	8	Medway NHS Trust
	9	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust
	10	Poole Hospital NHS Trust
	11	Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust
	12	The Cardiothoracic Centre - Liverpool NHS Trust

NHS: ICT

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations her Department has received on the choose and book system; and if she will make a statement. [122823]

Andy Burnham: No recent formal representations on the choose and book system have been received.

With the benefit of choose and book, general practitioners and other care staff are able to book initial hospital appointments at a time, date and place which is convenient for their patients. By giving patients choice and placing them in control of their booking, choose and book has been shown to halve the number of did not attends, saving millions of pounds in nursing and clinical time.

97 per cent. of general practices are now able to make electronic bookings. Most bookings are made in under a minute. Currently, over 16,000 bookings are being made every day, and in excess of 2.5 million bookings have been made in total to date.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent on the choose and book IT system in Bedfordshire; and if she will make a statement; [122824]

(2) how much IT consultants and contractors have received for work undertaken to implement the choose and book IT system in Bedfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [122826]

Andy Burnham: The choose and book computer system is a core component of the national programme for information technology being delivered by the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency. Expenditure on system development, along with ongoing service payments and volume charges, is incurred centrally under a national contract.

Information is not held centrally on payments made by national health service organisations locally to information technology consultants and contractors.

NHS: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the guidance being developed by NHS Employers on dress codes and religion or belief. [125422]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* After discussion with the Department and national health service trusts, NHS Employers has decided that given that each trust comprises a work force unique to it, reflecting its local communities, national guidance is inappropriate and the way forward is to share best practice where like trusts can learn from each other.

NHS Trusts have indicated to NHS Employers that they would like access to evidence and best practice from other parts of the NHS so that they can learn from others when developing their own local dress code policies. NHS Employers is currently pulling together a number of good practice examples, which it will make available on its website.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have registered to donate their organs in each year since figures were first available. [125577]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of individuals on the NHS Organ Donor Register is shown in the following table:

Number on the NHS Organ Donor Register each year

	Added in year	*Million Total at end*
1994	0.14	0.14
1995	2.21	2.35
1996	1.39	3.74
1997	0.92	4.66
1998	0.87	5.53
1999	1.51	7.04
2000	1.23	8.27
2001	0.74	9.01
2002	1.08	10.09
2003	0.87	10.96
2004	0.96	11.92
2005	1.01	12.93
2006	1.04	13.97

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for people on the organ transplant list to receive a donation in each year since 1997. [125578]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Median time waited (in days) on the active list to transplant in the United Kingdom, by year of transplant and transplant type, is shown in the following table:

	Kidney[1]	*Heart*[2]	*Lung(s)*	*Liver*[2]
1997	278	77	152	46
1998	339	78	242	42
1999	370	104	146	64
2000	390	128	165	36
2001	426	43	203	47
2002	425	40	311	66
2003	433	51	226	52
2004	464	33	145	69
2005	468	41	186	87
2006	809	66	200	108

[1] Living donor transplant cases excluded
[2] Urgent cases excluded

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are waiting for organ transplants; and how many people are registered to donate organs. [125579]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number listed actively for an organ transplant in the United Kingdom as at 4 March 2007 is shown in the table.

Organ	*Active list*
Kidney	6,271
Pancreas	64
Kidney/pancreas	155
Heart	95
Lung(s)	264
Heart/lungs	29
Liver	316
Total	7,194

• At 4 March 2007 there were 14.13 million people registered on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Osteoporosis

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what provision has been made for the allocation of Government funding towards osteoporosis treatment to remain ring-fenced; [127468]

(2) how much her Department allocated for expenditure on the treatment of osteoporosis in 2005-06; and how much was spent. [127469]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold data which link treatment to disease. Because of the number of different diagnostic and treatment episodes a patient with osteoporosis and any concurrent condition may undergo, the Department cannot record spending on an individual illness or condition.

The capital provision of £17 million to improve national health service capacity in dual X-ray absorptiometer (DXA) scanning provision in the diagnosis of osteoporosis has been included in strategic health authorities' (SHA) strategic capital allocation and is not ring-fenced. Whilst the Department does not monitor how SHA strategic capital is spent, it has been clear in its expectations that this funding is spent exclusively on DXA provision. In May 2006, the national director for older people, Professor Ian Philp, wrote to SHAs to highlight the importance of DXA scanning in delivering the relevant elements of the national service framework for older people.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress she has made towards meeting the commitment contained within the Labour party 2005 election manifesto to double spending on palliative care services. [123064]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ministers have charged Professor Mike Richards, the national cancer director, with support from all other national clinical directors, to develop an end of life care strategy for adults. The strategy will deliver increased choice to all adult patients regardless of their condition about where they live and die, and, within available resources, provide them with support to make this possible. The strategy will help deliver the Government's manifesto commitment and the commitments in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say".

Pregnant Women: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pregnant women in Lancashire were diagnosed with a mental illness *(a)* during pregnancy and *(b)* in the year after their pregnancy in each of the last 10 years. [125672]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department does not collect information about diagnoses in primary care, so information about the number of people with a mental illness, and who are treated in primary care, is not available at primary care trust, county or national levels.

However, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued clinical guidance note CG45 on 28 February 2007 about treating antenatal and postnatal mental health and is available on its website at www.nice.org.uk. This estimates that one in seven women experience a mental health problem in the antenatal (during pregnancy) and postnatal (first year after giving birth) periods.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts there were as at 1 January 2007. [126735]

Andy Burnham: On 1 January 2007 there were 152 primary care trusts.

Ritalin

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings she has had with Novartis to discuss the use of the drug Ritalin. [112649]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has not met with representatives of Novartis to discuss the use of the drug Ritalin.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Vaccination

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ensure that the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation on a human papilloma virus national immunisation programme are implemented within the school year 2007-08. [124115]

Caroline Flint: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) human papilloma virus (HPV) subgroup met on 28 February to review the available information on the protective effect of the vaccine against cervical cancer, and the safety of HPV vaccines. Further work is ongoing to evaluate whether the vaccine is considered to be a cost-effective prevention of cervical cancer; and the impact that HPV vaccine may have on genital warts.

The subgroup's advice will be reported to the main JCVI committee for further discussion. No decisions will be taken on introducing these vaccines into the immunisation programme until the main JCVI present their advice to Ministers for their consideration.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the potential impact on NHS spending of a national human papilloma virus types 6, 11, 16 and 18 immunisation programme for *(a)* 12-year-old girls, *(b)* 12 to 16-year-old girls and *(c)* 12 to 16-year-old girls and boys. [124121]

Caroline Flint: This work is currently being undertaken for the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's consideration.

Smoking: Television

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment her Department has made of the impact of people smoking on television and in films on young people's decision on whether or not to start smoking; and if she will make a statement; [125008]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that smoking is not encouraged by its depiction in television programmes and films; and if she will make a statement. [125009]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not made a recent assessment of the impact of people smoking on television and in films on young people's decision on whether or not to start smoking.

The Government have taken steps to reduce the impact of smoking on young people. The glamorising of tobacco products through advertising, promotion and sponsorship as well as through their depiction in the media has been shown to be linked to increased smoking rates. The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002 provides a comprehensive ban on advertising promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products.

The Office of Communications code covers the portrayal of smoking in television programmes. This code specifically requires that the portrayal of smoking should not be featured in children's programmes, and included only when there is a strong editorial case for inclusion. In other programmes likely to be widely seen by young people, smoking should be included only where context or dramatic veracity requires it. In such programmes, smoking should not be prominently featured as a normal and attractive activity.

In films, the independent British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) undertook a public consultation exercise to update its guidelines on granting classifications for films which can be seen by children. The public expressed some concern at the depiction of smoking in films. The BBFC issued updated guidelines in 2005, which included the following:

> No work taken as a whole may promote or encourage the use of illegal drugs. Any detailed portrayal of drug use likely to promote or glamorise the activity may be cut. Works which promote or glamorise smoking, alcohol abuse or substance misuse may also be a concern, particularly at the junior categories.

The BBFC apply these guidelines to cinema films, as well as videos and computer games.

Waiting Lists: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex for treatment in (i) ear, nose and throat, (ii) general surgery, (iii) gynaecology, (iv) orthopaedics, (v) rheumatology, (vi) urology and (vii) pain relief specialities were in the last period for which figures are available. [125490]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is only available at primary care trust (PCT) level. The following tables detail the latest figures for average waiting times for the specialities requested for PCTs in East Sussex, based on the wait between consultant decision to admit and in-patient admission.

Commissioner based in-patient median waiting times for East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Hastings and Rother PCT, end of December 2006

	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT		*Hastings and Rother PCT*	
Specialty	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*
General surgery	667	8.2	236	7.3
Urology	296	8.1	61	n/a
Ear, nose and throat	575	10.0	173	9.5
Anaesthetics	50	n/a	12	n/a
Rheumatology	2	n/a	0	n/a
Gynaecology	311	8.5	164	11.6

Commissioner based in-patient median waiting times for East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT and Hastings and Rother PCT, end of January 2007

Specialty—trauma and orthopaedics	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1,540	10.7
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,000	12.3

Notes:
1. East Sussex, Downs and Weald PCT is a merger between Eastbourne Downs PCT and Sussex Downs and Weald PCT (due to the recent PCT restructuring that took place in October 2006). In addition, Hastings and Rother PCT is a merger between Bexhill and Rother PCT and Hastings and St. Leonards PCT.
2. Medians are not provided for specialties with a total waiting list of less than 100 because this population is too small for a statistically meaningful median to be calculated.
3. Pain management data are collected as part of the anaesthetic specialty, and Orthopaedics is part of trauma and orthopaedics. It is not possible to break these down into constituent parts.
4. Data by specialty are collected on a quarterly basis apart from trauma and orthopaedics, which are collected monthly.

Source:
Department, QF01 and Monthly Monitoring

Welfare Foods

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that those administering the welfare food scheme healthy start take the necessary steps to confirm the registration of the Wick Family Centre, formerly the Amherst Playgroup, account number 1845674. [127457]

Caroline Flint: Both the Amhurst Family Centre and Wick Family Centre are registered for the welfare food scheme. Amhurst Family Centre was registered in 2004 as supplier number 1845674. Wick Family Centre was registered in April 2006 as supplier number 1972054.

Responsibility for registering and paying day care providers for provision of free milk through the welfare food scheme moved to a new contractor on 1 December 2006. Any day care provider wishing to discuss issues relating to their registration can contact the new Welfare Food Reimbursement Unit helpline on 08707 20 30 63.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 March 2007

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Trafficked Women

23. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Solicitor-General what guidance he has issued to the Crown Prosecution Service on the provision of witness protection for women trafficked into the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. [127494]

The Solicitor-General: Guidance issued to Crown prosecutors on how to support and protect trafficked victims at court includes applications for special measures, applying for reporting restrictions to protect victims' identities and applying for the use of live evidence to be given from abroad.

Out of court process, where there are concerns over safety, a police risk assessment for protection can include mechanisms such as panic alarms, telephone links to the police station or re-location.

Law Officers

24. **David Taylor:** To ask the Solicitor-General what measures are in place to assess the Law Officers' maintenance of the public interest in dispensing legal advice to the Government. [127496]

The Solicitor-General: In fulfilling their role as the Government's chief legal advisers, the Law Officers give frank, impartial advice based on their own professional judgment. The Law Officers are answerable to Parliament and the courts for their advice. It is clearly in the public interest for the Government to receive such advice in order to ensure that their actions are legally sound and in accordance with the rule of law.

Soldier Prosecutions

25. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Solicitor-General on which occasions since 1997 he received correspondence from the Secretary of State for Defence on prosecution of soldiers for war crimes or serious offences while on operations. [127497]

The Solicitor-General: Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Defence to this office on prosecution of soldiers for war crimes or serious offences while on operations is not centrally recorded and to retrieve this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Fraud

Ms Butler: To ask the Solicitor-General what proposals he has for the prevention and prosecution of fraud. [127495]

The Solicitor-General: The Government have today published a response to the public consultation on the Fraud Review. The review identified that in many cases fraud is a preventable offence. The National Fraud Strategic Authority will have as one of its aims to raise awareness among the public and to promote best practice in fraud detection and prevention.

The Fraud Review also made a number of recommendations designed to facilitate the prosecution of fraud offences. These included: the establishment of a financial court jurisdiction; specialist training for judges; extended sentencing powers for the Crown court; and the introduction of a framework for a plea negotiations. We will be establishing a study to consider the detailed costs and benefits of introducing a financial court jurisdiction. We are also establishing a working party to look at the issue of plea bargaining.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departments: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what databases are controlled by the House authorities; and what percentage of the data in each database is estimated to be inaccurate or out of date. [124042]

Nick Harvey: The Parliamentary ICT service (PICT) supports around 146 live databases across both Houses of Parliament. This includes corporate applications (in areas such as finance, HR, procurement, catering and facilities management), procedural applications (covering the legislative, scrutiny and debate functions of Parliament) and knowledge applications (covering the research and public information functions).

The number given does not include locally-based databases, simple Access databases or test, back-up and development databases. Individual Departments and offices are responsible for data quality and they put appropriate measures in place to manage the quality of data and their being kept up to date.

Portcullis House

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what progress has been made on improving signage in Portcullis House. [126936]

Nick Harvey: The Parliamentary Estates Directorate is in the process of appointing the consultant architect to carry out the next phase of work and to liaise with the architects of Portcullis House, Hopkins and Partners.

The existing signage on the 1st floor of Portcullis House has been surveyed to assess its problems and a brief has been formulated for the consultant architects to work to.

The programme of works to install new signage is scheduled to be undertaken during the 2007-08 financial year.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Constituency Work

Mr. Gale: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals to bring hon. Members' correspondence relating to constituency case work under the ambit of Parliamentary proceedings for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [127687]

Mr. Straw: The Government recognise the need for hon. Members' constituency work to be able to be conducted with appropriate confidentiality. The Government are considering the case for further guidance to public authorities as to how the exemptions should be applied in the case of hon. Members' constituency correspondence. As the hon. Member will be aware, the right hon. Member for Penrith and the Border (David Maclean) has brought forward a private Member's bill which would amend the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to create a single exemption to cover hon. Members' correspondence.

The Government will continue to listen to the views of hon. Members on the best way forward to ensure that constituency correspondence is given the necessary protection.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage: Protection

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of likely appeals resulting from changes in the heritage designation system. [127645]

Mr. Lammy: The proposed new designation system set out in the White Paper, "Heritage Protection for the 21st Century", will be more efficient, understandable and accessible, with improved information sharing, greater public involvement and new opportunities for consultation. We cannot give a firm estimate of the number of appeals as part of a system that has not yet been implemented. However, improved information sharing and consultation should reduce the need for appeal.

English Heritage: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the resources required by English Heritage to carry out its responsibilities as proposed in the "Heritage Protection for the 21st Century" White Paper; and what resources will be provided by her Department to enable those responsibilities to be met. [127644]

Mr. Lammy: English Heritage has supplied DCMS with a detailed analysis of their likely costs to undertake their responsibilities as proposed in the White Paper "Heritage Protection for the 21st Century". Their analysis of these costs has been factored in to the DCMS submission as part of the current Spending Review process.

Historic Buildings: Official Visits

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many properties represented by the Historic Houses Association *(a)* she, *(b)* the Minister for Sport, *(c)* the Minister for Culture and *(d)* the Minister for Media and Tourism visited in an official capacity in each of the last five years. [127432]

Mr. Lammy: As Minister for Culture I have visited two properties represented by the Historic Houses Association (HHA) in an official capacity since I was appointed—Holkham Hall, Norfolk and Burghley House, Lincolnshire. I also attended the launch of the HHA's education service in 2006 and spoke at the 2006 annual general meeting. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Sport and my hon. Friend the Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism have not yet had the opportunity to visit any HHA properties in an official capacity. We do not have data for previous Ministers for visits to these properties in the last five years.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many properties *(a)* owned and *(b)* managed by the National Trust (i) she, (ii) the Minister for Sport, (iii) the Minister for Culture and (iv) the Minister for Media and Tourism visited in an official capacity in each of the last five years. [127433]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has visited the Stonehenge historic landscape, which is owned by the National Trust, in an official capacity. As Minister for Culture I have visited Tyntesfield, near Bristol, Woodchester Mansion, Stroud, where the park is owned by the Trust, and the new National Trust offices at Swindon. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Sport and my hon. Friend the Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism have not yet had the opportunity to make official visits to properties owned or managed by the Trust. We do not have data for previous Ministers for visits to these properties in the last five years.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many properties *(a)* owned and *(b)* managed by English Heritage (i) she, (ii) the Minister for Sport, (iii) the Minister for Culture and (iv) the Minister for Media and Tourism visited in an official capacity in each of the last five years. [127434]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 418W.

Osborne House

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if she will make a statement on the future of Osborne House on the Isle of Wight; [127467]

(2) what steps she is taking to seek to repeal part of the Osborne Estate Act 1902 on the convalescent wing. [127560]

Mr. Lammy: We are exploring the options for repealing part of the Osborne Estate Act 1902, which will enable English Heritage to bring into use the wing previously used as a convalescent home.

Any proposals English Heritage develop will be subject to consultation with the local community, and will go through the usual planning procedures.

Sportsmatch

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what level of funding will be available to Sportsmatch over the next three years. [127696]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England provided £3.675 million in funding to Sportsmatch in 2006-07, and the same amount has been allocated for 2007-08.

Subsequent years' funding, as with all other funding allocations for my Department, are subject to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the staff employed by Sportsmatch will continue to be employed under the new structure. [127697]

Mr. Caborn: Under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 Sport England and the Institute for Sports Sponsorship are consulting with the seven Sportsmatch staff members with the working assumption that those seven members of staff will transfer over to Sport England on 1 April 2007.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the future of Sportsmatch. [127698]

Mr. Caborn: As announced on 13 February by Sport England, the Sportsmatch scheme will be managed by Sport England from 1 April 2007. The intention is to build on its past success, with a strengthened regional focus.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1070-1W, on Afghanistan, how many undelivered urgent operational requirements since January 2006 related to helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [124602]

Mr. Ingram: Since the start of planning for deployment into southern Afghanistan 23 UORs related to theatre entry modifications to current helicopters in Afghanistan have been approved but not fully delivered to theatre. An initial operating capability has been delivered to theatre for eight of the 23. An additional 10 UORs have been approved and fully delivered. These figures are correct as at 1 March 2007.

Afghanistan: Army

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of retention rates among the Afghan national army. [127156]

Mr. Ingram: Since 2001, the Afghan national army (ANA) training programme under a US lead has trained approximately 32,000 soldiers. Members of the ANA are required to re-enlist after an initial three-year contract and to date approximately 42 per cent. of personnel have re-enlisted at the three-year point. The US-led training mission has already identified measures designed to improve the level of re-enlistment, including asking NATO to deliver more mentoring teams to partner the ANA, and is establishing plans to implement a more sustainable force generation cycle.

Armed Forces: Children

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1161W, on armed forces: children, which internal welfare agencies are available to give support and assistance to children of service personnel killed or injured while on operations; and what funding they have received from his Department in the last five years. [126197]

Derek Twigg: Each of the services is responsible for the co-ordination of its own welfare organisations such as the Navy Personnel and Families Organisations, Army Welfare Organisation and the Royal Air Force Community Support. The support offered covers a wide remit and is provided by the chain of command as well as a host of dedicated welfare providers including contracted organisations such as the SSAFA (Forces Help), WRVS and Defence Medical Welfare Services.

Over the past five years approximately £123 million of funding has been provided to fund dedicated welfare support to the three services as a whole, which of course extends well beyond the support of children of personnel killed or injured on operations.

BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason a security pass was issued to BAE Systems executive Julian Scopes by his Department; when the security pass was originally issued; and to which premises Mr. Scopes is given access with this security pass. [126500]

Derek Twigg: Ministry of Defence security policy allows for establishment passes to be issued to contractors who make frequent visits to specific MOD sites to meet business requirements. In accordance with this policy, Mr. Scopes was issued with a contractor pass in December 2005. This pass, which expired on 31 December 2006, allowed him access to Main Building, the Old War Office and St. George's Court.

Bombs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cluster bombs have been stockpiled by the UK, broken down by type. [127193]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 10 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 656W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Bowman Combat Radio System

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what increments are planned for the Bowman communications system once initial conversion is completed. [126184]

Mr. Ingram: Following completion, currently expected in 2008, of the Bowman conversion and fielding programme, we envisage a periodic capability release programme providing both capability enhancements and maintenance. This programme will be informed by current validation work on the delivery of deferred capabilities.

Correspondence: Members

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Minister of State for the armed forces to reply to the letter of 31 January from the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on his constituent, Mr. N. Thom of Mintlaw. [125587]

Derek Twigg: I wrote to the hon. Member on 6 March 2007.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Freedom of Information

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 960W, on the Defence Export Services Organisation: freedom of information, what the *(a)* brief fees and *(b)* refresher rates are for (i) Jonathan Crow QC and (ii) Kate Gallafent. [126499]

Mr. Ingram: Counsel are paid an hourly rate for all their work as follows:

Jonathan Crow: £220 per hour

Kate Gallafent: £100 per hour

Housing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many formal complaints on the condition of military housing were made by residents in each of the last 10 years. [118943]

Derek Twigg: The figures given in the table represent all housing complaints received for the years from 2002 to 2006.

	Number
2002	409
2003	327
2004	485
2005	369
2006	740

Records of complaints for years prior to 2002 have been routinely destroyed.

The increase in complaints in 2006 is thought to reflect the introduction of the Housing Prime Contract and the initial problems with the service being delivered.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all Mastiffs delivered to the Iraqi theatre of operations will be fitted with slatted armour. [127023]

Mr. Ingram: I will not comment on specific protection measures for reasons of operational security.

Lynx Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Mark 3 and *(b)* Mark 8 Lynx helicopters are (i) in service, (ii) under repair and (iii) being cannibalised for parts; and if he will make a statement. [124597]

Mr. Ingram: On 1 March 2007, the details for the Royal Navy's Lynx helicopter fleet were as follows:

Helicopter type	*Departmental fleet*	*In service*	*Under repair*	*Other*
Lynx Mk 3	37	25	6	6
Lynx Mk 8	36	27	5	4

"In Service" aircraft are those in the Forward Fleet and available to the Front Line and training units. Aircraft "Under Repair" are those in the Depth Fleet which are undergoing planned routine depth maintenance. "Other" aircraft are those accident damaged and undergoing investigation with the Flight Safety Accident Investigation Centre, undergoing trials, awaiting disposal, or in storage.

One Lynx Mk 3 in storage is currently subject to controlled cannibalisation to support depth maintenance. Carefully managed and controlled cannibalisation is also carried out in the Forward Fleet as part of normal business to ensure the required number of aircraft are available to squadrons. These cannibalised aircraft are routinely returned to service when the necessary spare parts become available.

Navy: Deployment

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many warships are fully operational in the Royal Navy; and if he will make a statement. [126534]

Mr. Ingram: The Royal Navy has 74 surface warships in the operating cycle, though those undergoing maintenance or refit are held at lower readiness for operations. In my letter of 6 March to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis), I set out the readiness policy for Royal naval ships, and listed those ships that are at lower readiness. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the safety of Nimrod aircraft. [126482]

Mr. Ingram: RAF Nimrod aircraft are designed and certified to strict airworthiness and safety standards. The structural integrity of the aircraft is maintained by adherence to the procedures detailed within military airworthiness regulations. The review of airworthiness and safety of the Nimrod fleet is a routine and continual activity that is undertaken by both the Defence Logistics Organisation and the Front Line Command. It includes a comprehensive maintenance and repair process that covers routine flight servicing before and after each flight.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the Nimrod fleet has been grounded since September 2006. [126483]

Mr. Ingram: On 21 February 2007, after the discovery of dents in fuel lines, Nimrod MR2 flying was suspended as a precautionary measure. Aircraft were cleared to fly again after checks of the fuel lines proved satisfactory with the first serviceable aircraft operating on 24 February 2007.

Red Arrows

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which air shows and other events the Red Arrows appeared in each of the last five years. [127005]

Mr. Ingram: The Royal Air Force Acrobatic Team (RAFAT), popularly known as the Red Arrows, participated in the following air shows and events from 2002 to 2006:

2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Akrotiri Families Day	CBF Investiture Ceremony—Cyprus	King Abdullah Airbase—Jordan	Amman Marka Airport—Jordan	Jordan 2006
Giornata Azzurra Airshow	50th Anniversary of Patrouille de France—Salon de Provence	RAF Akrotiri Families Day	RAF Akrotiri Families Day	Aire 06 Spanish Air Force Open Day at San Javier AFB (Spain)
Country Sports Show / Game Fair—Portadown	RCDS Marham Visit	70th Anniversary FAF 04—Cognac—France	Jersey—60th Anniversary of Liberation	Isle of Man TT Festival at Douglas Bay
Rochefort Airshow—France	Llandudno Regional Tri Service Recruting Town Show	205 BFJT Graduation—Linton-on-Ouse	RAF Aerobatic Team 40th Anniversary	RAF Cosford Air Show
Biggin Hill International Air Fair—Kent	Southend Airshow	Beaumaris Show	Enniskillen Airshow	British Grand Prix
Southend Airshow—Southend	RAF Lossiemouth Friends and Families Day	Blackpool Sky Show	17(R)Sqn 90th Anniversary/17(R)Sqn New Typhoon OEU	Royal Netherlands Air Force—Leeuwarden
Golden Jubilee Families Day—RAF Benson	Isle of Man TT Races—Ramsey	Southend Airshow	RAF Lossiemouth and Kinloss Combined Families and Friends Day	Margate Airshow
Peel TT Races—Isle of Man	Isle of Man TT Races—Douglas	Portrush Airshow 2004—Northern Ireland	Abbeyshrule Airshow	Kemble Classic Jets Airshow
European Air Force Academies Commandants	Isle of Man TT Races Peel	Ramsey Isle of Man TT Races	The Ulster VE Day Air Show—Newtownards—N.I.	Midnight Summer Festival Air Display—Kauhava (EFKA)—Finland
10th Anniversary of the Adjutant Generals Corps	Biggin Hill International Air Fair	Douglas Isle of Man TT Races	Llandudno 2005	The Salthill Air Show (Eire)
21st Signal Regiment Open Day	Nigel Mansell UK Youth Golf Classic—Woodbury	250th Anniversary of Royal and Ancient Golf Club	Southend Airshow 2005	Tain Gala
Cosford Airshow	Whitehaven Maritime Festival Cumbria	European Air Group Steering Group Meeting	RAF Valley Families Day/90th Anniversary 19(R)Sqn. 50th Anniversary of SAR/ 45th Anniversary 4FTS	Scottish Fair at Scone Palace—Scone Palace Perth
The Weston Park International Model Air Show	Helensburgh (Faslane) Fair	Rolls Royce Celebrations—East Midlands Airport	Faslane Fair	RAF Waddington International Air Show
Kemble Airday—Cirencester	Classic Jet Air Show Kemble	RAF Cosford	CVHT Charitable Fund Raising Concert—Dunsfold	The Nigel Mansell UK Youth Golf Classic
RAF Kinloss Family and Friends Day	Royal Netherlands 50th Anniversary—Twenthe	Dutch Open Day—Volkel Airbase	Isle of Man TT Festival	RAF Wittering 90th Anniversary Families Day
Nancey-Ochey Airshow—France	Evreux Airshow—France	Faslane Fair	Ramsey Sprint Day TT Festival	Goodwood Festival of Speed
BAE Systems Brough Families Day—Yorkshire	Fistral Beach Newquay	Kemble Air Day	FCCLA 60th VE Day Commemoration Celebrations	Blackpool Veterans/Service Awareness Week
RAF Waddington at Home Day	Air Power Zeltweg Austria	Golowan Festival Penzance—Cornwall	Isle of Man TT Races	RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day
Airborne Forces Day Yorkshire	RAF Waddington at Home Day	Goodwood Festival of Speed	Launch of Portishead Carnival	RNAS Culdrose International Air Day
Tain Gala	Tain Gala	RAF Waddington International Air Show	RAF Cosford Air Show	CFSA Reunion and RAF Cranwell Families Day
RAF Golf Championships—Trevose Golf Club Constantine Bay	Salthill Airshow—Eire	Tain Gala	Royal Netherlands Air Force Open Day—Gilze Rijen	The Royal International Air Tattoo—Flying

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Newquay Seafront Display	RAF Boulmer 50th Anniversary Families Day	RAF Lyneham Station Families Day	Margate Airshow	World Youth Sailing Championships—Portland
Chichester Festivities	Central Flying School (CFS) Annual Reunion and CFS	Arbroath Seafront Spectacular	Kemble Air Day—Flying Display	RNLI Lifeboat Week—Lyme Regis
RNLAF Open Day—Gilze-Rijen/Breda	Goodwood Festival Speed	Scottish Fair—Scone Palace	Air Power 2005—Zeltweg—Austria	Sanicole International Airshow (Belgium)
Manx Festival of Aviation-Jurby	Wirral Show	The Salthill Airshow	Whitehaven Maritime Festival—Open Air Family Event	Weston-Super-Mare Seaside Airshow/Helicopter Show
Plymouth Armed Forces Show	East Fortune Festival of Flight-Scotland	C.F.S. Annual Reunion—Cranwell	Salthill Airshow Galway Bay—Eire	Lowestoft Seafront Air Festival
Inverness Highland Games	Kidwelly Carnival	Plymouth Armed Forces Show	Trafalgar 200 Portsmouth—Son and Lumiere	RAF Wyton Families Day
Goodwood Festival of Speed	Royal International Air Tattoo	East Fortune Air Show	Tain Gala	Sunderland International Airshow
East Fortune -Museum of Flight—Edinburgh	Station Civic Day—RAF Cranwell	Kidwelly Carnival Wales	Scottish Fair	Windermere Airshow and Community Festival
RNAS Culdrose Air Day	British Grand Prix	British Grand Prix	RAF Waddington International Airshow	Red Arrows Bournemouth Seafront Show
Farnborough International	JSCSC Graduation -Swindon	Royal International Air Tattoo /Battle/Entente Cordiale/D-Day	Kidwelly Carnival	RAF Cottesmore Families Day
Winter Gardens Royal Parade -Weston-Super-Mare	Sunderland International Airshow	Farnborough International Airshow	British Grand Prix	Whitby Regatta
ACSC Graduation Ceremony—JSCSC	Llanidloes Air Day	Graduation Day JSCSC—Swindon	Air Display to Commemorate VE/VJ Day—Blackpool	400th Anniversary of the First Charter of Dover
Llanidloes Air Day—Wales	Lyme Regis Lifeboat Week	Llanidloes Air Day	Central Flying School Reunion—Cranwell	Fowey Royal Regatta
RAF Shawbury Families Day	Weston-super-Mare Seafront Air Show	RNLI Lyme Regis Lifeboat Week—Dorset	RAF Wittering/RAF Cottesmore Families Day	RAF Lyneham Families Day
Sunderland International Airshow	Station Families Day—RAF Shawbury	Sunderland International Airshow	Royal International Air Tattoo	Weymouth Carnival
RAF Marham Families Day	Music in the Air Middle Wallop—Hants	Red Arrows Families Day	RNAS Culdrose International Air Day	Cromer Carnival
Lowestoft Seafront Air Festival	Windermere Community Festival	Weston-Super-Mare Seafront Airshow	JSC and SC Advanced Command and Staff Course	Dawlish Carnival Airshow
Kielder Forest Festival	Reach for the Sky-Blenheim Palace	RAF Marham Families Day	Llanidloes Air Day	Airbourne—The Eastbourne International Air Show
Music in the Air-Middle Wallop	Airbourne—The Eastbourne International Air Show	Lowestoft Seafront Air Festival	Windermere Festival—A Weekend With The RAF	Torbay Royal Regatta
European Ferrari Festival	Dawlish Carnival	RAF Shawbury Families Day	Arbroath Sea Front Spectacular	Aberystwyth Corporate Communications and Careers Information Event
Dawlish Carnival Week—Devon	Bournemouth Seafront Show	Windermere Festival	Weston-Super-Mare Seafront Show	Sidmouth Regatta
Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race Finish—Portsmouth	Sidmouth Regatta	Kielder Forest Festival	Lowestoft Seafront Air Festival	Port of Dartmouth 162nd Royal Regatta
Airbourne—The Eastbourne International Air Show	Cromer Carnival	Scandia Cowes Week	RAF Marham Families Day	Clacton Airshow
Bournemouth Seafront Show	Weymouth Carnival	Airbourne—The Eastbourne International Air Show	RAF Shawbury Families Day	Dunsfold Wings and Wheels
Barrow Festival of the Sea	Fowey Royal Regatta	Bournemouth Seafront Airshow	Sunderland Airshow	Silloth (Cumbria) Carnival
Sidmouth Regatta—Devon	Clacton Airshow	Cromer Carnival 2004—Norfolk	Bournemouth Seafront Show	Hoylake Lifeboat Station Open Day
Weymouth Carnival—Dorset	Opening Ceremony of The World Microlight Championships	Weymouth Carnival	Airbourne—The Eastbourne International Air Show	RAFAT Families Day
Clacton Air Show—Clacton	Yorkshire Airshow	Dawlish Carnival—Devon	'Fly to the Past'—Blenheim Palace	Northern Ireland Air Spectacular—Portrush
Fowey Royal Regatta and Carnival Week	200th Anniversary of Hoylake Lifeboat and Open Day	Fowey Royal Regatta	RAF Lyneham Families Day	Southport Airshow and Military Show
Canadian International Air Show	Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta	RAF Cottesmore Families Day	Cromer Carnival	Guernsey Battle of Britain Air Display (RAFA)
Nova Scotia International Air Show	Torbay Royal Regatta	The Yorkshire Airshow—Elvington	Weymouth Carnival	Jersey International Airshow
RAFA Jersey International Airshow	RAF Marham Families Day	25th Anniversary of Red Arrows Flying Hawk/30th Anniversary of Hawk	Dawlish Seafront Airshow and Carnival	RAF Leuchars Battle of Britain At Home Day—Flying

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
RAFA Guernsey Airshow	Radom Air Show—Poland	Sidmouth Regatta	Sidmouth Regatta	BAE Systems (Brough) Family Day
RAF Leuchars Battle of Britain at Home Day	Station Families Day—RAF St. Mawgan	Torbay Royal Regatta	Yorkshire Air Show—Elvington	6th NATO Day in Ostrava (Czech Republic)
Morecambe Heritage Gala	Great Ormand Street Hospital/Bishopsgate Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot—Reading	The Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta	RAF Cottesmore Families Day	Giornata Azzurra—Pratica di Mare—Italy
Malta International Airshow	Southport Airshow 2003	Clacton Airshow—Essex	The 160th Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta	Roland Garros de Cholet—France
Great North Run—Newcastle upon Tyne	Duxford Airshow	The Centenary Eye Show	Clacton Airshow	Great North Run
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia		Caernarfon Airshow	The International Air Show Radom Poland	Isle of Man TT Race at Peel
Langkawi, Malaysia	RAF Leuchars Battle of Britain At Home Day	Hoylake Lifeboat Station Open Day	Hoylake Lifeboat Station Open Day	Goa, India
Bangkok, Thailand	Morecambe Heritage Gala	RAF St. Mawgan Families Day	RAF Benson Families Day	Muskat, Oman
Hindon (Delhi), India		Duxford Airshow	Biggin Hill International Air Fair	Abu Dhabi, UAE
Muscat, Oman		90th Anniversary of the Swiss Air Force -Payerne -Switzerland Battle of Britain Air Display Guernsey	45th Anniversary "Frecce Tricolori"—Italy	Bahrain, Bahrain
Dubai, UAE		RAFA Jersey International Airshow	Display Over Greek Ministry of Defence Athens and	Dharhan, Saudi Arabia
Abu Dhabi, UAE		Southport Airshow and Military Tattoo—Lancashire	Swiss Futures and Options Association Conference	Athens, Greece
Tabuk, Saudi Arabia		RAF Leuchars Battle of Britain at Home Day	RAF Leuchars Battle of Britain at Home Day	
Giza, Egypt		Morecambe Heritage Gala	Southport Airshow and Military Show	
		Biggin Hill Battle of Britain Weekend—Kent	Morecambe Heritage Gala and Air Display	
		BUPA Great North Run	Jersey International Airshow	
			Guernsey Battle Of Britain Air Display	
			BUPA Great North Run	
			RNAS Yeovilton International Air Day	
			Malta International Airshow	

Note:
The official display season for the RAF AT is from May to October every year. In 2002 and 2006 the Team additionally participated in out-of-season overseas tours.

Satellites

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department has made of the potential cost of UK armed forces taking part in the Blue Force Tracker programme; [126182]

(2) what funding he plans to allocate to the Blue Force Tracker programme being developed by the United States military. [126183]

Mr. Ingram: Free standing Blue Force tracking systems are available largely off the shelf using US based technology and are deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to supplement the initial capability provided by Bowman ComBAT (Common Battlefield Application Toolset), Infrastructure and Platform Battlefield Information System Application (CIP). In the longer term we are looking mainly to more advanced versions of Bowman CIP and to Tactical Data Links to provide positional information. The joint US-UK Coalition Blue Force Situational Awareness demonstrator is helping to develop ways of exchanging data between Bowman CIP and US Blue Force tracking systems. It is too early to say what the resource implications would be.

TRANSPORT

A21: Pembury

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities have occurred at the A21 junction with Henwood Green Road, Pembury in each year since 1997. [126043]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table gives the Highways Agency's record of road traffic accidents and casualties, including fatalities that have occurred at the A21 junction with Henwood Green Road, Pembury in each year since 1997.

	Total number of accidents	Number of casualties		
		Slight	Serious	Fatal
1997	0	0	0	0
1998	2	4	0	0
1999	1	1	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0
2001	2	5	0	0
2002	2	2	4	0
2003	3	1	2	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0
2007	1	1	0	1

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received evidence of aircraft engine testing which has confirmed the presence of organophosphates in the engine bleed air. [127360]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* No. The Department for Transport (DFT) has asked the Department of Health (DH) to undertake an independent scientific review of data submitted by the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA). BALPA submitted data relating to organophosphates, the cabin air environment, ill-health in aircraft crews and the possible relationship to smoke/fume events in aircraft. Consideration continues in the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT). The next meeting of the COT is on 20 March 2007. The relevant papers can be found on the internet at:

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/cotnonfood/index.htm

http://www.food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/toxicity/

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what procedures pilots should report any contaminated air events on a UK registered commercial aircraft. [127361]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Pilots are required to report contaminated air events to the Civil Aviation Authority, where they meet the criteria for a Mandatory Occurrence Report. The definition of a reportable occurrence is contained in Article 142 of the Air Navigation Order.

In addition, airlines have their own reporting systems for non-mandatory occurrences for their pilots to follow.

Aviation: Air Pollution

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the carbon emissions produced by international air traffic movements using UK airspace without landing in the UK. [127530]

Gillian Merron: None. The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

East Coast Railway Line: Standards

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what performance targets he has set for GNER for the East Coast Main Line franchise; and what assessment he has made of performance against those targets since December 2006. [126216]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improving performance on the route is a key output in the current franchise, and continues to be so under the Management Agreement in place since December 2006. The key performance indicators to improving performance are reviewed and discussed at monthly Franchise Performance Meetings. GNER remains committed to improving both its reliability and punctuality on the route and is working with Network Rail to identify improvements. Other performance enhancements which are ongoing are:

re-engineering the diesel high speed train fleet

Implementation of a range of reliability improvements to its electric fleet

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what point after entering the UK vehicles being driven in the UK but registered abroad are required to have vehicle excise duty paid on their behalf. [125970]

Dr. Ladyman: Vehicles from a European Union member state may be used or kept in the UK for up to six months in any 12-month period without vehicle excise duty (VED) being due.

In accord with international rules in place since 1975, vehicles from outside the European Union may be used or kept in the UK for up to 12 months without VED being due. In order for vehicles to qualify for this exemption from paying VED, the vehicle must be properly registered and taxed in its home country.

Railways: Pennines

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work has been undertaken to enhance capacity on Trans-Pennine rail routes since 1997. [125983]

Mr. Tom Harris: The First Transpennine Express (TPE) franchise commenced on 1 February 2004. Since that time, the franchise has delivered capacity improvements in excess of 18 per cent. Much of this was due to an increase from three trains/hour to four trains/hour over the core Leeds—Manchester section in December 2004, but the introduction of new Class 185 trains to the route, completed in January 2007, has brought further capacity benefits.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accident blackspots he has identified in *(a)* Taunton constituency and *(b)* Somerset; and what steps his Department has undertaken to reduce the number of accidents in those locations. [127464]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has made no assessment of accident cluster sites in either Taunton or Somerset. As the local highway authority, the duty to investigate accident cluster sites lies with Somerset county council.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred in Taunton constituency in each year since 1996, broken down by the day of the week on which the accident occurred. [127465]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of reported personal injury road accidents in the parliamentary constituency of Taunton by day of the week in each year since 1996 is given in the following table:

Number of reported personal injury road accidents by day of the week : Constituency[1] of Taunton 1995-2005

	Day of week							
	Monday	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*	*Sunday*	*Total*
1996	57	55	51	69	57	51	43	383
1997	76	63	61	65	66	53	42	426
1998	58	52	73	74	73	60	44	434
1999	68	56	43	60	60	53	42	382
2000	69	58	74	62	87	61	40	451
2001	67	73	70	72	74	58	43	457
2002	62	69	62	59	69	51	37	409
2003	50	58	64	64	56	52	43	387
2004	59	56	53	62	66	60	42	398
2005	58	69	57	71	76	42	52	425

[1] Based on 2004 constituency boundaries

Roads: Cambridge

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* total number of accidents, *(b)* average daily traffic flow and *(c)* accident rate per million vehicle kilometres was for the stretch of (i) the A14 between Girton and Cambridge, (ii) the A10 between Cambridge and Ely and (iii) the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge in 2006; and what each has been in 2007 to date. [127395]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested for 2006 will be available in summer 2007. Data for 2007 will be available in summer 2008.

Roads: Construction

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many kilometres of HGV lanes have been built or designated since 1997. [125992]

Dr. Ladyman: None.

Tolls: Greater London

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in London congestion charges in each year since the scheme's inception; and if he will make a statement. [126914]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government Car and Despatch Agency paid the following in London congestion charges since the scheme's inception:

	Congestion charge (£)
2002-03	22,202.00
2003-04	179,465.50
2004-05	158,508.00
2005-06	146,846.20

The continuing reduction in the congestion charge paid in 2004-05 and 2005-06 reflects the Agency's decision to diversify its Government fleet to include Toyota Prius vehicles, which are currently exempt from the London congestion charge.

Wheelchairs: Pedestrian Areas

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies have been carried out on the risks associated with *(a)* motorised wheelchairs and *(b)* other pavement vehicles; what results were shown for Class 3 vehicles; and what representations have been made to his Department on this issue. [127700]

Gillian Merron: The Department has published a review of these vehicles, including research into the number of related incidents categorised by severity. The findings are available on the Department's website. We are currently reviewing this evidence in conjunction with the representations received on general use of such vehicles, which have included some on safe usage.

Wrexham-Bidston Railway Line

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been carried out into the extent of the potential for modal shift away from cars of the electrification of the Wrexham-Bidston railway line. [124327]

Mr. Tom Harris: I am aware that the Borderlands Rail Study commissioned by the Taith Consortium of North Wales local authorities, the Welsh Development Agency, Merseytravel and Cheshire county council assessed the economic case for investment in the Wrexham-Bidston line, including electrifying all or parts of it.

The benefits of reduced road congestion would be taken into account formally in the assessment which would be required from the promoters of any rail proposal seeking Government funding.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

EC Energy Policy: Canada

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has made to ongoing energy discussions between the European Union and Canada; what matters of energy policy the Government plans to bring up at next month's EU-Canada summit; and if he will make a statement. [127341]

Malcolm Wicks: We are in regular contact with Canadian and EU colleagues about energy and climate security in the run up to the G8 Summit in Germany in June 2007, including the prospects for a post-2012 agreement on climate change.

The EU-Canada summit will take place on 4 June. An agenda for this meeting has not yet been set. We will, however, contribute fully to the dialogue at the appropriate time.

Financial Services: Advisory Services

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many independent financial advice practices went into administration in each year since 1997. [127524]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The official insolvency statistics published by the Insolvency Service include total numbers of company administrations in England and Wales sourced from Companies House. However, these are not available broken down by industry sector, so it is not possible to provide the figures for independent financial advice practices.

Post Office: Magazine Press

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost to the Post Office was of producing the Keeping You Posted magazine in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the impact of the magazine. [127638]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the Managing Director has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Project Al Yamamah

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations have been received by his Department about the Al Yamamah military contract following the announcement that the Serious Fraud Office would end its investigation into the contract. [126927]

Malcolm Wicks: As with other Government Departments, including those with a more central role in this matter, the Department of Trade and Industry has received a number of communications about the decision of the Serious Fraud Office to discontinue its investigation in relation to the Al Yamamah programme.

Thames Water: Billing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations he has received regarding Thames Water's policies in respect of non-paying customers. [127238]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA Ministers and officials regularly meet with key water industry stakeholders and have received representations on a range of water industry issues, including Thames Water's policy on customers in debt and non-payment of bills.

TREASURY

Arms Trade: Balkans

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* assault rifles and *(b)* machine guns were imported from (i) Bosnia and Herzegovina, (ii) Croatia and (iii) Serbia and Montenegro in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [126385]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 March 2007]*: The information is not available in the format required.

Child Trust Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what activities were recently undertaken as part of Child Trust Fund week; and what the cost was of each. [118713]

Ed Balls: As part of Child Trust Fund week, a number of activities were undertaken to help promote parents' engagement with the Child Trust Fund accounts set up in their children's names, and to encourage new parents to open the accounts themselves. These included a nationwide radio and parenting media advertising campaign at a cost of £234,000, the preparation and distribution of packs designed to help MPs promote the Child Trust Fund in their local regions at a cost of £30,000, and a campaign to promote editorial coverage in the national media at a cost of £31,000. All such expenditure is subject to the normal rules concerning Government communications expenditure, and is designed to ensure properly targeted communications and full value-for-money. All aforementioned costs are exclusive of VAT.

Departments: Knowledge Management

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many knowledge managers are employed by his Department; what their total remuneration is; how many vacancies for knowledge manager positions there are in his Department; what the salary range is of posts which are vacant; and if he will make a statement; [127458]

(2) how much his Department spent on knowledge management in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; what the planned expenditure is in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [127459]

John Healey: Knowledge management involves the improvement of organisational record-keeping, filing systems and processes, and is especially important in efficiently meeting the demands of the Freedom of Information Act and managing the transition to full electronic data storage and management. The Treasury currently employs three individuals on this type of work, one on a part-time basis, and is seeking to recruit a further two individuals. As advertised, the salary ranges for these posts are £40,039 to £48,589.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1907W, on special advisers, to which film and television company his answer referred. [126595]

John Healey: The DVDs of film and television series were received from Warner Bros. Entertainment and subsequently donated to charity.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage wage increase will be for each grade of civil servant in his Department in the 2007-08 pay round. [126840]

John Healey: Pay Awards for the Senior Civil Service grades will be in line with the Review Body on Senior Salaries Report No. 63.

The pay award process for the delegated grades has not yet commenced.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Francois: To ask (1) the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to date has been of maintaining the Treasury Euro Resource website, www.euro.gov.uk; [126746]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of the Treasury Euro Resource, Euro Information, in each year since its inception. [126747]

Ed Balls: Information on the costs of starting up and maintaining the Treasury's euro website has been given in the answer of 25 July 2006 to the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), *Official Report*, column 1351W, the answer of 24 June 2004 to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald), *Official Report*, column 1471W, the answer of 8 March 2004 to the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor), *Official Report*, column 1275W, and the answer of 22 October 2002 to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable), *Official Report*, column 220W. The direct cost of maintaining the euro website in 2006-07 was £12,000.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost has been of the euro information centres in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Inverness, *(c)* Kent and *(d)* Birmingham since their establishment. [126909]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

An overall figure for the operating budgets of Euro Information Centres (EICs) since their establishment is not readily available, as they receive funding from a variety of sources, including charging for some of their services, and have been in operation for more than twenty years. To provide this information for the EICs in Southampton, Inverness, Kent and Birmingham could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which projects on energy efficiency in the public sector and increased access to the arts and culture have received funding under the Invest to Save-Inclusive Communities Budget since 4 April 2005; and how much each project received. [126869]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) on 22 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 23WS.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to introduce fiscal incentives to encourage households to introduce renewable energy and energy efficiency methods in their homes. [127142]

John Healey: All taxes are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

The Government recognise the importance of household energy efficiency and renewable energy technology and since 1997 has introduced a number of measures in support of these. These include reduced VAT rates for the installation of energy saving materials such as insulation, draught-proofing, heating controls and also for micro-generation-technologies powered by renewable and sustainable energy sources. In addition, the Landlords Energy Saving Allowance (LESA) was introduced in 2004 to improve energy efficiency in the private rented sector. Pre-Budget report 2006 announced extensions to the scope of LESA as well as a stamp duty exemption for the majority of new zero-carbon homes. The pre-Budget report also announced that Finance Bill 2007 would include legislation to ensure that individual householders installing micro-generation are not subject to income tax on any payment for surplus electricity exported back to the grid.

The Government remain committed to meeting environmental challenges and continue to look for ways to promote household energy efficiency and renewable technologies through a range of tax and other policy measures.

Financial Services: EC Law

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he expects the markets in financial instruments directive to be implemented in full in the United Kingdom by the deadline of November 2007. [127333]

Ed Balls: The UK was the only major member state to transpose the markets in financial instruments directive by 31 January 2007. This provides the maximum time available for industry and the FSA to prepare for implementation.

HM Revenue and Customs: Consultants

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure on external advice and consultancy was incurred by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; how much has been incurred in 2006-07; which consultants were engaged; and on what projects. [123358]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 27 February 2007]:* The spend from HMRC consultancy budgets for the periods requested was published by the National Audit Office in their report on Central Government's Use of Consultants in December 2006 (HC 128). Figures for 2006-07 will be published in HMRC's departmental report this spring.

Information on which consultants were engaged is not readily available and we would incur disproportionate costs in carrying out this analysis. However, we can make available the results of earlier analysis which we have on file, showing the top 20 (top 10 for 2004-05) spend by consultancy firm. The information is as follows:

Top 10 consultancy suppliers by spend—EX-IR and EX-CE, 2004-05

Cap Gemini Ernst and Young UK
Deloitte MCS Ltd.
PA Consulting Group
Methods Application Ltd.
Detica Ltd.
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary UK
Accenture Ltd.
The Nesco Group
Alan Whitfield Associates
French Thornton

Top 20 consultancy suppliers by spend—HMRC, 2005-06

Deloitte and Touche
KPMG Consulting Ltd.
PA Consulting Group
Methods
DBI Consulting Ltd.
Mckinsey and Co.
Parity Resources Ltd.
Nesco
Detica Ltd.
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary UK
Serco Ltd.
Xansa UK Ltd.
Cap Gemini Ernst and Young UK
Alan Whitfield Associates
Fujitsu Services Ltd.
Accenture Ltd.
BMRB International
Hedra Consortium
TRL Ltd.
Electronic Data Systems Ltd.

Top 20 consultancy suppliers by spend—HMRC, April 2006 to January 2007

Detica Ltd.
Fujitsu Services Ltd.
Deloitte MCS Ltd.
Parity Resourcing Ltd.
Methods Consulting Ltd.
Smartsourcing plc.
The Nesco Group
Accenture Services Ltd.
Serco Consulting
Xansa
Fujitsu Services Ltd. (Pacesetter)
PA Consulting Group
Coi-Coi Trading Fund/GNN
Language Line Ltd.
Serco Ltd.
Specialist Computer Centres
Pharmaventures
Gartner Group UK Ltd.
The Yellow Team Ltd.
Ashbourne Assessment Systems Ltd.

HM Revenue and Customs: Flights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what total expenditure on flights by HM Revenue and Customs managers was with *(a)* British Airways and *(b)* BMI in each of the last two years. [112009]

Dawn Primarolo: Information relating to flights by HMRC managers cannot be disaggregated from the overall cost of flights booked through HMRC's official travel contractors.

International Monetary Fund

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the Public Information Notice produced following the International Monetary Fund's Article IV consultation with the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [127306]

Ed Balls: The UK Government strongly supports the IMF surveillance programme, and welcomes scrutiny of UK economic and financial policy.

The Public Information Notice, published alongside the Article IV Report, concluded that "macro-economic performance in the UK remains impressive". The Treasury will publish an updated assessment of economic and fiscal developments in the 2007 Budget on 21 March.

Leeds Castle Group

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost has been since 2006 of attendance at the meetings of the Leeds Castle Group. [126818]

Dawn Primarolo: The combined cost to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs of hosting the inaugural meeting of the Leeds Castle Group in January 2006 and attending the meeting hosted by Canada in January 2007 was £37,038.

Marginal Tax Rates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a table on the lines of Table 4.2 of the Pre-Budget Report showing the number of households facing Marginal Deduction Rates of *(a)* 68 per cent. and over, *(b)* 70 per cent. and over, *(c)* 80 per cent. and over, *(d)* 90 per cent. and over and *(e)* 100 per cent. and over using the same assumptions as in Table 4.2. [126834]

John Healey: Estimates of the numbers of families facing different marginal deduction rates will continue to be published in pre-Budget and Budget reports.

Michael Ellam

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role Michael Ellam plays on the Treasury Board; and what day-to-day responsibilities he has. [126872]

John Healey: The role of the Treasury board is set out on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/about_treasury_board.cfm.

On day-to-day responsibilities, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 18 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1253W.

National Trust

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met the Director-General of the National Trust; and what was discussed. [119123]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Personal Equity Plans

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he intends to undertake a regulatory impact assessment prior to the merger of Personal Equity Plans (PEPs) and Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) in April 2008; and whether he has estimated likely changes to tax revenues resulting from the taxation of un-invested cash in PEPs after their conversion into ISAs. [127462]

Ed Balls: A partial regulatory impact assessment of a package of reforms to the ISA regime, including the proposal to bring PEPs within the ISA wrapper, was published in December 2006. The Government intend to publish a full regulatory impact assessment of this package of reforms when the implementing legislation is laid in the summer. It is estimated that the application of the ISA treatment to interest earned on all un-invested cash held in former PEPs will have only a negligible effect on revenues.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets his Department has set in relation to tobacco smuggling. [127682]

John Healey *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* The Department's targets in relation to tobacco smuggling are set out in the HMRC Annual Report 2005-06.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* smuggled tobacco produce and *(b)* counterfeit tobacco produce was seized in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [127683]

John Healey: The amount of seized tobacco produce can be found in HMRC's Annual Reports http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm.

Taxation: Overpayments

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of Schedule E tax which was overpaid in each financial year since April 2000. [127437]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold this information

Unpaid Taxes

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of unpaid *(a)* Schedule D tax and *(b)* Capital Gains tax in each year since April 2000. [127438]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no reliable estimates for the amount of unpaid *(a)* Schedule D tax and *(b)* Capital Gains tax in each year since April 2000.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have moved into work from each New Deal programme and claimed tax credit; and what the average annual tax credit payment is to a person in each group. [127529]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated number of in-work families benefiting from the 50+ element of the working tax credit, in 2004-05, is published in table 2.1 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards, 2004-05", which is available on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm. The average annual tax credit entitlement for each family in this group is around £4,000.

Information regarding other new deal programmes is not available.

Written Questions

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer question 119123, on the National Trust, tabled by the hon. Member for Salisbury on 1 February 2007. [126894]

John Healey: I have done so.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Sexual Offences

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on sexual abuse of child refugees in the Great Lakes region of Africa; and if he will make a statement. [127681]

Hilary Benn: World Vision published on 27 February 2007 a detailed report on the sexual abuse of children in refugee and internally displaced persons camps in the Great Lakes region, which DFID is studying carefully. We have also had representations on the vulnerability of children in war zones in the Great Lakes, most recently from War Child and through the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes.

We recognise this is a very serious issue and welcome the focus these organisations bring to it. We continue to work closely with civil society groups, established churches and Governments in the region to address the issue as a matter of urgency.

European Development Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conditions the European Development Fund places on donor recipients; and what conditions his Department places on the same recipients through bilateral agreements with those countries. [126838]

Mr. Thomas: The European Development Fund (EDF) is subject to conditions at different levels, including those of a political and technical nature. At the political level, the EU-ACP Cotonou Agreement identifies a number of "essential" (human rights, democracy and the rule of law) and "fundamental" (governance) elements. A breach of the principles underpinning these elements can lead to consultations between the EU and the ACP state concerned and the imposition of measures aimed at remedying the breach. These measures must be proportional but may, as a last resort, evoke a suspension of community aid.

DFID's bilateral relationships with partner countries, including those funded by the EDF, are covered by the UK policy paper "Partnerships for poverty reduction: rethinking conditionally". This was published jointly by DFID, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and HM Treasury in March 2005. The UK believes that an effective aid partnership is based on a shared commitment to poverty reduction, human rights and strong financial management. These are similar to those essential and fundamental elements outlined in the aforementioned paragraph. We may interrupt or stop aid if a partner Government breaches these commitments. Any conditions we use will relate to these three commitments and be drawn from our partner's own policies and plans, wherever possible.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects the UK to ratify the 10th European Development Fund; and by when he expects all member states to have ratified the Fund. [126839]

Mr. Thomas: The Government will lay the necessary documentation before Parliament within the next few weeks. We hope it will be possible to complete ratification before the summer recess.

Other member states have indicated that they expect to conclude ratification within the agreed deadline of the end of 2007.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Vehicles

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate the Department has made of the number of abandoned vehicles in each month of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area. [121008]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on the number of abandoned vehicles removed and destroyed by local authorities are collected from each authority on an annual basis only; a breakdown by month is not available.

The data requested, by region, is set out in the table:

Number of abandoned vehicles reported

Thousand

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
North East	3.2	6.7	6.8	4.0	3.8
North West	10.6	13.8	13.3	10.4	9.1
Yorkshire and Humberside	12.7	15.4	14.0	10.4	8.4
East Midlands	16.9	19.3	15.5	9.9	6.8
West Midlands	13.1	16.1	13.4	8.9	8.6
East	42.2	44.9	35.3	19.6	16.3
London	104.5	94.5	59.6	49.5	43.6
South East	57.5	53.4	42.3	24.4	19.8
South West	23.7	27.7	21.0	13.2	9.8
England	284.4	291.7	221.1	150.2	126.1

Note:
Totals may not add due to rounding

The table containing data broken down by each local authority area is lengthy so I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Biofuels

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote the development of *(a)* synthetic diesel and *(b)* other biofuel production from waste plant material. [125929]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The Government supports the development and use of biofuels primarily through fuel duty incentives. We also fund research into advanced biofuel production processes, including a recent DTI-funded study into biofuel production from plant biomass (details at

http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file35818.pdf)

and a national non-food crops centre project to determine the opportunities for producing synthetic diesel and other materials from biomass to liquids technology (further details at

http://www.nnfcc.co.uk/funding/calls.cfm).

At EU level, the UK Government have been active in developing and defining the Seventh Framework programme for research and development, which includes significant support for research into improved and new types of biofuels for transport.

In the longer term, the Government are keen to use the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) to promote the development and use of those biofuels

which offer the greatest environmental benefits. The use of wastes, including plant wastes, has the potential to offer significant climate change and sustainability benefits. We are seeking views on the ways in which we might incentivise the environmental benefits of biofuels as part of our consultation on the RTFO, copies of which are available in the House Libraries.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will have regard to the growing of bio-fuel crops that *(a)* require deforestation and *(b)* inhibit sustainable food policies when developing his policy on bio-fuels. [127133]

Ian Pearson: Sustainability of production is one of the Government's key priorities for biofuel development. That is why the Government are developing environmental reporting as an integral part of the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO). This will require all obligated companies to report on the carbon savings and wider environmental impacts of their biofuels. The reports will include details of the previous use of the land on which the biofuel feedstocks were grown, and the impacts on biodiversity of growing those feedstocks. This will encourage companies to supply biofuels which deliver the maximum carbon savings with the minimum environmental impact. It will also ensure that we can monitor the impact of both imported and domestically-sourced biofuels.

In the longer-term, the Government will be looking to move to a system that allows only biofuels which meet certain minimum sustainability standards to benefit from the RTFO. However, developing a verifiable and robust system that is compatible with World Trade Organisation requirements on preventing barriers to trade will take time.

We anticipate that biofuels in the UK will come from a mixture of home-grown and imported crops, recycled waste vegetable oils and tallow. While some biofuel crops are likely to replace UK food crops, there are significant quantities of oilseed rape and wheat that are currently exported which could be retained for domestic biofuel use, with no loss to food production. Biofuel crops can also be grown on set-aside land, that is, land which cannot be used for food crops. In the longer term, as technology improves, straw and wood could be used for biofuel production.

Birds: Conservation

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to implement the recommendation of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee that, before any species of bird is removed from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, there should be random testing of a proportion of the captive-bred population to verify claims of captive breeding. [127145]

Barry Gardiner: As part of the public consultation exercise for the review of the Bird Registration Scheme, my officials asked the Forensic Working Group (FWG) of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) specifically to consider the DNA forensic issues relating to registration, including those associated with hybrids. The exercise closed on 16 February 2007, and over the coming weeks we will be considering the Forensic Working Group's contribution alongside all the other responses received. A summary of responses received will be published shortly on the DEFRA website.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average *(a)* dairy and *(b)* beef herd size is in (i) Great Britain, (ii) England, (iii) Wales and (iv) each county. [126161]

Barry Gardiner: The average size of dairy and beef herds in England at June 2006 is shown in table 1. County data can be found in table 2. Figures for the other UK countries fall under the jurisdiction of the individual devolved authorities.

Table 1—England

	Number
(a) Total dairy cows	129,0231
Total holdings with dairy cows	14,772
Average herd size for dairy cows	87
(b) Total beef cows	73,9046
Total holdings with beef cows	28,293
Average herd size for beef cows	26

Notes:
1. Dairy/beef cows are any cows or heifers that have calved including cull cows. Dairy and beef herd replacements are not included nor are cattle intended for slaughter.
2. Some holdings may have both dairy and beef cows and will therefore be included in the holding counts of both categories

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Table 2—Dairy and beef cows and holdings by county in England

County/unitary authority	*Total dairy cows*	*(a) Hdgs with dairy cows*	*Average dairy herd size*	*Total beef cows*	*(b) Hdgs with beef cows*	*Average beef herd size*
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	—	—	—	862	36	24
South Teesside	1,251	24	52	1,643	53	31
Darlington	1,293	15	87	1,304	55	24
Durham CC	6,973	123	57	21,358	682	31
Northumberland	7,758	102	76	46,825	882	53
Tyneside	—	—	—	1,223	36	34
Sunderland	0	0	0	271	10	27
North East Region	18,558	281	66	73,487	1,753	42

Table 2—Dairy and beef cows and holdings by county in England

	(a)			(b)		
County/unitary authority	*Total dairy cows*	*Hdgs with dairy cows*	*Average dairy herd size*	*Total beef cows*	*Hdgs with beef cows*	*Average beef herd size*
West Cumbria	39,870	468	85	21,509	753	29
East Cumbria	68,768	809	85	38,727	1,338	29
Halton and Warrington	—	—	—	344	19	18
Cheshire CC	99,665	880	113	9,055	520	17
Greater Manchester South	1,463	24	62	1,392	73	19
Greater Manchester North	5,650	87	65	3,846	210	18
Blackburn with Darwen	1,238	22	56	802	43	19
Blackpool	—	—	—	0	0	0
Lancashire CC	71,834	849	85	17,240	820	21
East Merseyside	—	—	—	566	14	40
Liverpool	0	0	0	—	—	—
Sefton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wirral	1,905	15	126	210	13	16
North West Region	291,898	3,173	92	94,041	3,811	25
Kingston upon Hull, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,540	87	63	10,399	351	30
North and North East Lincolnshire	—	—	—	2,315	100	23
York	1,180	18	67	—	—	—
North Yorkshire CC	73,970	965	77	51,208	1,853	28
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	6,879	92	74	3,978	184	22
Sheffield	2,076	34	62	2,031	74	27
Bradford	3,866	58	67	3,301	159	21
Leeds	2,263	31	73	2,657	106	25
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	8,633	130	66	8,724	443	20
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	104,966	1,430	73	85,857	3,325	26
Derby	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Derbyshire	4,941	96	52	2,801	156	18
South and West Derbyshire	40,277	529	76	20,634	828	25
Nottingham	0	0	0	—	—	—
North Nottinghamshire	5,676	62	91	4,053	172	24
South Nottinghamshire	4,378	47	93	2,060	104	20
Leicester	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	25,510	282	90	14,770	583	25
Northamptonshire	6,500	82	79	12,431	380	33
Lincolnshire	7,783	99	79	18,744	581	32
East Midlands Region	95,603	1,203	79	75,649	2,813	27
Herefordshire, County of	17,582	228	77	20,633	852	24
Worcestershire	14,100	177	80	8,553	469	18
Warwickshire	12,561	184	68	8,818	390	23
Telford and Wrekin	4,028	38	107	1,029	45	23
Shropshire CC	70,042	730	96	28,632	1,123	25
Stoke-on-Trent	818	14	57	414	14	30
Staffordshire CC	75,536	869	87	19,004	1,004	19
Birmingham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Solihull	1,487	17	87	1,054	42	25
Coventry	—	—	—	362	10	36
Dudley and Sandwell	185	5	40	—	—	—
Walsall and Wolverhampton	0	0	0	224	11	21
West Midlands Region	196,494	2,269	87	88,896	3,968	22
Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire CC	1,566	29	55	5,464	196	28
Norfolk	11,137	146	76	18,587	547	34

Table 2—Dairy and beef cows and holdings by county in England

County/unitary authority	Total dairy cows	(a) Hdgs with dairy cows	Average dairy herd size	Total beef cows	(b) Hdgs with beef cows	Average beef herd size
Suffolk	4,977	91	55	7,646	329	23
Luton	0	0	0	—	—	—
Bedfordshire CC	1,744	25	69	2,131	114	19
Hertfordshire	2,269	38	59	3,975	150	27
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	—	—	—	579	16	37
Essex CC	4,401	56	78	5,248	235	22
Eastern Region	26,370	392	67	43,926	1,602	27
Inner London—West	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inner London—East	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outer London—East and North East	—	—	—	254	8	32
Outer London—South	—	—	—	152	10	15
Outer London—West and North West	669	7	90	219	11	20
Berkshire	5368	44	121	3,707	135	28
Milton Keynes	667	8	80	600	33	18
Buckinghamshire CC	8,841	96	92	11,015	323	34
Oxfordshire	10,799	118	92	11,239	361	31
Brighton and Hove	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Sussex CC	8,842	113	78	9,750	428	23
Surrey	7,101	77	92	5,070	211	24
West Sussex	14,508	130	112	8,191	284	29
Portsmouth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire CC	20,221	198	102	12,420	531	23
Isle of Wight	3,546	44	80	2,275	98	23
Medway	0	0	0	558	6	93
Kent CC	10,850	120	91	11,270	479	24
South East Region (inc. London)	91,962	963	95	77,077	2,925	26
Bristol, City of	—	—	—	55	5	11
North and North East Somerset, South Gl	26,139	279	94	7,487	396	19
Gloucestershire	28,877	321	90	15,820	665	24
Swindon	2,781	30	92	477	28	17
Wiltshire CC	42,345	401	106	18,136	545	33
Bournemouth and Poole	—	—	—	73	7	11
Dorset CC	64,013	564	113	13,519	600	23
Somerset	94,487	918	103	30,346	1,205	25
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	73,919	956	77	44,497	1,829	24
Plymouth	0	0	0	298	6	50
Torbay	—	—	—	330	10	34
Devon CC	131,101	1,584	83	69,075	2,801	25
South West Region	464,180	5,060	92	200,112	8,096	25
England	1,290,231	14,772	87	739,046	28,293	26

Notes:
1. Dairy/beef cows are any cows or heifers that have calved including cull cows. Dairy and beef herd replacements are not included nor are cattle intended for slaughter.
2. Some holdings may have both dairy and beef cows and will therefore be included in the holding counts of both categories.

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Departments: Equal Opportunities

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to implement the Race Equality Duty since 2000. [120633]

Barry Gardiner: Following the introduction of the race duties we produced a Race Equality Scheme in draft format for public consultation in May 2002. We revised and updated our Race Equality Scheme in July 2003.

Our revised scheme, which took account of comments received during the consultation, lays out in detail how we implemented the Race Equality Duty. This includes information on how we:

assess, and consult on, the likely impact proposed policies will have on promoting race equality;

monitor policies for any adverse impact on promoting race equality;

publish the results of assessments, consultation and monitoring;

make sure the public have access to information and services; and

train staff to carry out the general duty and the specific duties.

A copy of our Race Equality Scheme is enclosed/ available at www.defra.gov.uk

Key achievements include:

Race Relations Act training for staff;

launch of an Equality Impact Assessment toolkit; and

the extension of DEFRA's successful Elevator Partnership Scheme to specifically address under-representation of minority ethnic and disabled staff at senior management levels.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants are working on policy on anaerobic digestion, broken down by grade; and if he will make a statement. [126176]

Barry Gardiner: A cross-cutting project team is co-ordinating work across DEFRA to develop policy on anaerobic digestion. This regularly involves 14 individuals across five DEFRA divisions as well as a number of others. The total level of staff resources dedicated to the work on anaerobic digestion is equivalent to just under two full-time staff, broken down by grade as follows:

	Number
Grade 5	0.15
Grade 7	0.35
Senior Executive Officer	0.8
Higher Executive Officer	0.05
Executive Officer	0.2
Administrative Officer	0.25

Anaerobic digestion has the potential to make a significant contribution to a number of key Government objectives. Most notably, this includes reducing greenhouse emissions from waste management and agriculture, and improving air quality, as well as providing a source of renewable energy.

We will shortly be publishing the UK Biomass Strategy, which will include details of how we propose to work with interested parties to drive faster growth in the use of this technology. We are also currently assessing the level of staff resources that will be required to deliver the UK Biomass Strategy.

In parallel, the national Waste Strategy, which is also to be published this spring, will set out the important contribution which anaerobic digestion can make to achieving our waste management goals.

Departments: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126666]

Barry Gardiner: The total administrative burden cost of the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 to business was calculated as £7.58 million. One-off/ contingent costs were estimated at £41,000, and recurring costs were £7,539,000. Costs to the Department can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

A full regulatory impact assessment was published alongside the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003. Copies were made available in the Library of the House. It is also available from the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/ria/2003/animal-byproducts.pdf

The successful application of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) feed controls has brought about a year on year reduction in the incidence of BSE. This, along with the Government's other BSE controls, has enabled the Over Thirty Month scheme to be replaced, at an annual saving to the taxpayer of £300 million, and paved the way for the beef export ban to be lifted.

Departments: Paper

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has to increase the amount of recycled paper used in his Department; [122429]

(2) what percentage of the paper used by his office comes from recycled sources. [122430]

Barry Gardiner: During the last financial year the core Department purchased 874 tonnes of recycled paper for printed publications (96 per cent.) and 235.8 tonnes of recycled paper for internal office use (100 per cent.).

DEFRA's procurement policy requires use of recycled paper that meets the Quick Wins targets set by the Government in October 2003. These require all Departments to buy paper for printed publications using coated paper that meets or exceeds a 60 per cent. recycled target of which a minimum is 75 per cent. post consumer waste. DEFRA currently buys 75 per cent. recycled paper in this category. For office paper and publications using uncoated paper there is a 100 per cent. recycled target of which 75 per cent. should be post consumer waste.

The only exceptions to these standards are where recycled paper is not available for a specific process, e.g. security paper.

Energy: Housing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to encourage local planning authorities to enforce higher standards for the energy efficiency of homes. [126734]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Enforcement of higher standards for the energy efficiency of homes is the responsibility of Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). DEFRA has been working closely with DCLG to secure greater energy efficiency of new and existing homes through amendments to Part L of the Building Regulations. DEFRA supports the recent amendment to Part L, which will lead to an increase in the energy efficiency of new homes by approximately 20 per cent. compared with those built to the 2002 Regulations. DEFRA also supports the commitment that all new homes will be zero carbon by 2016, introduced through a timetable of phased improvements.

Environment Protection: EC Law

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the introduction of the environmental liability directive; and what is required for it to have regulatory effect. [127134]

Barry Gardiner: Member states are required to transpose the Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) by 30 April 2007. The Government completed the first of two public consultations (on policy options for transposing) at the end of February. Following analysis of consultation responses, the way forward is currently being considered. The second consultation (on draft legislation) is planned to take place later in the year. The 30 April implementation deadline will therefore not be met. Taking account of all the required processes, implementation is expected during spring 2008. While the Government wish to implement the Directive as expeditiously as possible, it also wants to ensure optimum stakeholder engagement. We will apply section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972, using the appropriate Designation Orders, as the legal base for transposing the ELD.

Executive Agencies

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1723W, on executive agencies, what the net change was in the *(a)* value and *(b)* percentage of (i) resource and (ii) capital budget levels for each of his Department's executive agencies from 2005-06 to 2006-07 in (1) cash terms and (2) real terms; and if he will make a statement. [122625]

Barry Gardiner: Of the Department's nine executive agencies, five (Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Central Science Laboratory, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Veterinary Laboratories Agency and Veterinary Medicines Directorate) are net controlled agencies and recover their full economic costs through charges to their customers which include both DEFRA and non-DEFRA clients.

Details of the net changes to budgets of the four gross controlled agencies are given in the following table.

	Increase/(reduction) in cash terms				*Increase/(reduction) in real[1] terms*			
	Value (£ million)		*Percentage*		*Value (£ million)*		*Percentage*	
	Prog	*Cap*	*Prog*	*Cap*	*Prog*	*Cap*	*Prog*	*Cap*
GDS	2.3	0.0	2.4	0.0	2.3	0.0	2.3	0.0
MFA	3.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.1	0.0
RPA	(260.5)	20.5	(0.5)	2.7	(277.5)	20.3	(0.5)	2.6
SVS	8.6	7.7	0.1	3.0	6.2	7.7	0.1	2.9

[1] 2.68 per cent. added to the 2005-06 to restate at 2006-07 values.
Notes:
GDS Government Decontamination Service
MFA Marine Fisheries Agency
RPA Rural Payments Agency
SVS State Veterinary Service
Source:
HMT GDP Deflators

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1723W, on executive agencies, what subsequent changes to the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budgets of his Department's executive agencies have been made; and if he will make a statement. [122632]

Barry Gardiner: The following subsequent changes (in value and percentage) have been made to the 2006-07 resource and capital budgets of the Department's executive agencies listed:

Gross Control Agencies:

(i) Government Decontamination Service

Resource: £0.05 million - 1 per cent. reduction

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

(ii) Marine Fisheries Agency

Resource: £0 - 0 per cent.

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

(iii) Rural Payments Agency

Resource: £2.2 million - 1 per cent. increase

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

(iv) State Veterinary Service

Resource: £3 million - 3 per cent. increase

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

Net Control Agencies:

(v) Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

Resource: £0 - 0 per cent.

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

(vi) Central Science Laboratory

Resource: £0 - 0 per cent.

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

(vii) Pesticides Safety Directorate

Resource: £0 - 0 per cent.

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

(viii) Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Resource: £0 - 0 per cent.

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

(ix) Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Resource: £0 - 0 per cent.

Capital: £0 - 0 per cent.

Falcons: Conservation

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what actions his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take on the status of the saker falcon following the meeting of the CITES Consultative Committee on Trade in Falcons in May 2004. [126757]

Barry Gardiner: There was no recommendation from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting in May 2004 to change the listing status of the saker falcon. The UK has a policy of only putting forward species for listing or amendment of their listed status where we or one of our overseas territories are a range state. This is not the case with the saker falcon and any action therefore to change its listing status would be for one of the range states. Although the saker falcon is listed by CITES as Appendix II, it is listed by the EU as Annex A (the most endangered category).

Floods: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who decides on the allocation of funding to flood defence projects in North Yorkshire. [126405]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA provides the Environment Agency (EA) with a budget each year for flood risk management projects. The north east region of the EA produces an annual needs-based programme of works which is approved by the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee. This programme is then considered with the other regional programmes produced by the EA and funding is allocated according to priority.

Hunting

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Hunting Act 2004 in achieving its objectives. [127037]

Barry Gardiner: The Government are satisfied with the effectiveness of the Hunting Act 2004, which bans all hunting of wild mammals with dogs, apart from the tightly-drawn exemptions set out in the Act. These exemptions are recognised as effective ways of dealing with specific pest control issues.

Inland Waterways

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had on the Quinquennial Review of British Waterways of 2004; [126846]

(2) what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Quinquennial Review of British Waterways in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [126847]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA has agreed with British Waterways and the Shareholder Executive how the recommendations of the Quinquennial Review should be taken forward. I have met the Chairman and Chief Executive of British Waterways on a number of occasions to discuss a wide range of issues in the context of British Waterways' revised governance framework, as recommended by the Review.

Single Farm Payments

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on progress in making single farm payments. [126101]

Barry Gardiner: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made a statement to the House on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 60WS, about progress on payments under the Single Payments Scheme. The total paid at that time represented about 59 per cent. of the estimated total fund of £1.54 billion. Further payments have been made since that date. The Rural Payments Agency publishes regular updates on payments under the Single Payments Scheme on its website.

Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money from the public purse *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies gave to (i) the Smith Institute and (ii) its subsidiary SI Events Ltd in each year since 1997; and for what purpose each payment was made. [123089]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally, the Department believes no money from the public purse has been given to the Smith Institute and its subsidiary, SI Events Ltd.

Water Supply

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to change the amount of water abstraction for the purposes of public water supply. [126326]

Ian Pearson: The Government's approach to the management of sustainable water resources is the "twin track" approach involving the consideration of demand management alongside sustainable resource development. Each water company's Water Resources Management Plan will identify the need for any additional abstraction for the public water supply in line with this approach. These plans will also identify the scope for additional demand management activity, to obviate or minimise the need for new abstraction.

Where additional abstraction is identified, then any applications for new abstraction licences will be made to the Environment Agency. The licensing system aims to achieve a balance between the requirements of abstractors and adequate protection of the environment against the impacts of abstraction.

Water: Consumption

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of UK water use is by *(a)* agriculture, *(b)* business excluding agriculture, *(c)* domestic consumers and *(d)* public bodies and agencies. [126922]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 March 2007]*: Ofwat collects data from water companies each year on water usage. These data are provided for household and non-household customers. The following table provides the most recent figures for 2005-06.

	2005-06
Water use household (megalitres per day)	7,760
Water use non-household (megalitres per day)	3,683
Total	11,443

The non-household figure includes agricultural use where it is drawn from the public water supply. Many farmers tend to have their own sources of water supply (such as private boreholes) that are not part of the public supply.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Youth Opportunities Fund

8. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the administration of the Youth Opportunities Fund by local authorities. [127478]

Mr. Dhanda: The Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds have been running since April 2006 and are worth £115 million over two years. Local authorities are required to report to Government offices on delivery of the funds on a six monthly basis. The first six monthly reports were received at the end of October 2006. The second reports are due at the end of April 2007. The reporting system is supported by independent evaluation which is being undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research.

Adult Education

9. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* places and (b) courses there are in the adult education sector; how many there were on 15 March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [127479]

Bill Rammell: In my previous response I was able to confirm that we have realigned funding to support our priorities, which has allowed us to achieve our interim adult Level 2 target with a million more adults in the work force with essential employability skills and more than 1.6 million learners achieving Skills for Life qualifications. Overall in the 2005/06 academic year there were nearly 4 million publicly funded adult learner places. We do not hold information on the number of adult education courses.

Skills Development

11. **Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how he plans to develop skills to make the UK a more competitive economy; and if he will make a statement. [127481]

Bill Rammell: Skills are one of the five key drivers of productivity. 1.6 million adults have gained literacy and numeracy qualifications since 2001 and since 2002 1 million more have gained essential Level 2 qualifications. Lord Leitch's report "Prosperity for all in the global economy—world class skills" sets an ambition for the UK to be a world leader in skills by 2020, which we accept. We will create a demand-led system of skills supply, ensuring that economically valuable skills are delivered at all levels to enhance productivity, employability and social mobility.

Leitch Review

12. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the progress to date in implementing conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Leitch review of skills. [127482]

Bill Rammell: We welcomed the ambitions and recommendations of Lord Leitch's report. It set a vital challenge to raise the UK's skills to world class levels by 2020, which we cannot afford not to meet as a nation. Its key proposals include a demand-led system of skills supply, and the creation of an Employment and Skills Commission to scrutinise progress and make recommendations on further action, including legislation. We will publish an implementation plan to take forward this agenda in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement.

Sure Start

13. **Paul Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of the Sure Start programme on the early education, childcare, health and family support of disadvantaged children and their families. [127483]

Beverley Hughes: In 2005 the Department published the key emerging findings from our rigorous National Sure Start Evaluation. The report highlighted that even at this early stage in the programmes' lives there were some promising overall positive effects on parenting, and some small positive effects on child outcomes for most families. It also identified where we need to work harder to support our most disadvantaged families, and we have taken steps to address this.

Pupil Exclusions

14. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proposals he has to strengthen support for children and young people who are excluded from school. [127484]

Jim Knight: From September 2007, schools and local authorities will be required to arrange suitable, full-time education for all excluded pupils from the sixth day of exclusion. This is a considerable improvement on the current expectation that local authorities do this from the 16th day of a permanent exclusion. And, by requiring schools to provide education for pupils who are excluded for a fixed period, these changes will ensure that no child misses out on their education when excluded.

Children's Centres

15. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on what basis funding for children's centres has been allocated for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [127486]

Beverley Hughes: Children's centres revenue and capital funding for 2006-08 was allocated to 150 local authorities, based on a unit cost per child that took account of the numbers of children under the age of five that must be reached by 2008 and levels of disadvantage. Further amounts were added in recognition of the higher costs of delivering services to children in rural areas and London boroughs.

Denominational Schools

16. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of transport for pupils attending denominational schools was in *(a)* Leicestershire, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* England in 2005-06. [127487]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills does not collect this information.

Mature Students

17. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of applications for university places were from mature students in the last 12 months. [127488]

Bill Rammell: The latest figures published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) last month show that 42,700 or 15 per cent. of students who had applied for full-time undergraduate courses by mid-January for entry in autumn 2007 were mature students.

Creative Partnership Programme

18. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of the creative partnership programme on children's learning; and if he will make a statement. [127489]

Jim Knight: There have been four recent independent evaluations of the Creative Partnerships programme. They have been positive about the programme's impact and it has reached over 300,000 young people and 1,600 schools. We are currently considering options for the future of the programme beyond 2008.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of apprenticeship frameworks do not require a technical certificate. [127428]

Jim Knight: *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1250W.

Pupils: Intimidation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what consideration was given to the issue of bullying when the policy of extended hours for schools was developed. [127370]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* Extended services are being developed in and around schools as a key part of the every child matters agenda in order to deliver outcomes for children which include being safe, healthy, and enjoying and achieving. The core offer of services which all schools have been asked to develop by 2010 includes a varied menu of activities, childcare, parenting support, swift and easy referral to more specialist services such as health, social care and education welfare specialists as well as opening up facilities to the wider community.

In doing so the offer can help tackle both the causes and the impact of bullying by giving children and young people safe places in which to achieve and build their confidence, helping to address their social and emotional needs through effective relationships between children's professionals, and by supporting parents in building strong and constructive relationships with their children and dealing with issues such as bullying.

Schools: Biometrics

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that schools are aware of the proposed new guidelines on the collection of biometric data in schools. [127377]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The guidance will be available on both the Becta and the Department's teachernet websites and sent as a link to all primary and secondary schools in England as part of the Department's fortnightly e-mail communications with schools.

Thousands

	Under 19	*Adult*	*All ages*
April 2000 to July 2001			
Basic skills	16	50	67
Key skills	75	10	86
GCSE	43	21	63
Total	134	81	216
August 2001 to July 2002			
Basic skills	23	73	95
Key skills	91	12	103
GCSE	48	23	71
Total	161	108	270
August 2002 to July 2003			
Basic skills	16	72	87
Key skills	80	13	93
GCSE	48	23	71
Total	144	107	251

	Under 19	Adult	Thousands All ages
August 2003 to July 2004			
Basic skills	26	114	140
Key skills	117	36	153
GCSE	48	23	70
Total	191	173	363
August 2004 to July 2005			
Basic skills	54	193	247
Key skills	188	86	274
GCSE	48	22	70
Total	290	301	591
August 2005 to July 2006			
Basic skills	45	195	241
Key skills	145	99	244
GCSE	32	14	46
Total	222	308	530

Note:
Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.
Source:
LSC's Individual Learner Record (ILR) and Employer Training Pilots (ETP) databases.

Table 2: Number[1,2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider: Lancashire
Position at 31 March each year: 1990 to 2002

Type of provider	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Day nurseries	9,900	[4]—	8,800	9,600	10,900	[4]—
Playgroups and pre-schools	8,200	[4]—	6,600	6,600	6,500	[4]—
Childminders	8,700	[4]—	6,000	5,800	5,900	[4]—
Out of school clubs	1,100	[4]—	1,600	1,900	2,200	[4]—
Holiday schemes[3]	1,500	[4]—	900	700	600	[4]—

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 places.
[2] Data Source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.
[3] From 1999, places were counted once for each school holiday. Before 1999, places were counted once each year.
[4] Not available.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many local authorities have a control mechanism for surplus school balances; and how much was recycled using these mechanisms in the last year for which figures were available. [127079]

Jim Knight: In October 2006, the Secretary of State directed a revision of all local authority financial schemes, requiring the introduction of a claw back mechanism to be in place by 1 April 2007, in time for the new 2007-08 financial year.

Some authorities have already introduced a claw back mechanism in their local schemes prior to 2007-08. The precise operation of a claw back mechanism is a matter for local authorities to devise, in consultation with their schools and the local schools forum following the Department's statutory scheme guidance. The Department does not collect information on the level of funding recycled through claw back.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local authorities have reported a contribution from their centrally retained schools budget to a combined services budget. [127081]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the information recorded by those authorities who have reported a contribution from their centrally retained schools budget to a combined services budget for 2006-07:

Budgeted net expenditure on contributions to combined budgets: 2006-07

Local authority name	Contribution to combined budgets (£)
England	8,349,351
Barnet	365,500
Bolton	125,000
Cumbria	380,000
Derbyshire	500,000
East Sussex	300,002
Enfield	480,000
Greenwich	29,000
Hampshire	500,000
Haringey	950,000
Islington	263,515
Kingston upon Thames	75,000
Luton	206,369
North Yorkshire	594,248
Poole	46,000
Richmond upon Thames	50,000
Salford	276,636
Shropshire	265,867

Schools: Overseas Students

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children from outside the UK are registered in schools in England, broken down by their country of origin. [126821]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* The requested information is not collected centrally.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library copies of guidance in place on charging to use sports facilities at private finance initiative schools. [127415]

Jim Knight: Guidance is contained in the section 'Use of Schools' which forms Clause 29 of the Schools Standard Form PFI Agreement issued in May 2005. The agreement has been placed in the House Library.

Students: Fees and Charges

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of lifting the cap on top up fees in 2009 on application rates to university. [127769]

Bill Rammell: We have made no such assessment, which would be premature at this time. We have made clear our intention to establish an independent review of the introduction of variable tuition fees and the improvements to the student support system, which came into effect in autumn 2006. The review will be conducted by a commission, which will work on the basis of evidence from the first three years of operation of the variable fee arrangements. It will report to Parliament.

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in delivering the Government's strategy to combat teenage pregnancy; and if he will make a statement. [127485]

Mr. Dhanda: We are making steady progress in reducing England's historically high teenage pregnancy rate. The latest data show that between the 1998 baseline year and 2005 the under-18 conception rate fell by 11.8 per cent. to its lowest levels for over 20 years. The under-16 rate fell by 12.1 per cent. over the same period.

Translation Services

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what documents his Department and its agencies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English; into which languages such documents are translated; and what the cost was of producing such translations in each of the last five years, broken down by language of translation. [113885]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is as follows:

1. What documents are translated

The Department produces a large number of documents, each with a specific target audience. We recognise that some publications will have target audiences which include communities or individuals for whom English will not be the primary language. Decisions based on whether documents are translated, and if so into which languages, are made on a case by case basis, taking into account guidance provided by the Inclusivity Unit of COI Communications (Central Office of Information) on the specific communications needs of minority ethnic communities and the content and target audience of the particular publication. In general terms translations are undertaken for those communities who face high levels of social exclusion and are least likely to be fluent and literate in English.

HEALTH

Bedford Hospital NHS Trust: Finance

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she had to write off the historic debt of Bedford hospital NHS trust. [127655]

Andy Burnham: All national health service bodies must live within their means and there can be no question of us simply writing off deficits when particular trusts have failed to operate within their budgets.

We recognise that it may be challenging for NHS trusts to pay back a large deficit that has built up over a number of years. However, the Department, and, consequently, the NHS, have to live within an agreed level of resources in each financial year. This level is set by HM Treasury and voted by Parliament. In order for the system as a whole to balance, a deficit in one organisation has to be matched by a surplus elsewhere.

In circumstances where a surplus cannot be generated in the following year, for example in the case of the small number of organisations with particularly large deficits, strategic health authorities can agree to a recovery plan which phases the recovery of those deficits over a number of years. This would require other NHS organisations within the health economy to underspend over the same period. Any such arrangements would have to be subject to the agreement of local providers, commissioners and the managing SHA.

Complaints

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is made available to *(a)* patients and *(b)* patient groups on their rights to complain to strategic health authorities about the performance of primary care trusts; and if she will make a statement. [111749]

Andy Burnham: No information is made available to patients or patient groups specifically about complaining to strategic health authorities about the performance of primary care trusts (PCTs). Where a patient or patient group wishes to complain about a primary care trust, they should address their complaint directly to the PCT in question.

Responsibility for dissemination of information about complaints at local level rests with the local national health service organisation. Under Regulation 20 of the national health service (Complaints) Regulations 2004, each NHS body must ensure that there is effective publicity for its complaints arrangements. These regulations require NHS bodies to establish and operate complaints procedures with a view to securing a speedy resolution at local level. Where complainants are not satisfied with the result of an investigation at local level, they may request the Healthcare Commission to consider their complaint.

The Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS) was established to support patients and the public wishing to make a complaint about their NHS care or treatment. ICAS aims to ensure complainants have access to the support they need to articulate their concerns and navigate the complaints system, maximising the chances of their complaint being resolved quickly and effectively.

Efficiency Review

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will break down the efficiency savings in each workstream referred to in the answer of 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2087W, on the Efficiency Review, by area of savings. [123038]

Andy Burnham: The breakdown of savings within each workstream was as follows:

	£ million
Procurement	
Pharmaceuticals procurement	974
Supply chain efficiency programme	169
Purchasing and Supply Agency procurement	100
Independent Treatment Centre procurement	54
	1,297
Productive time	
Process improvement	1,024
Input costs	94
Time releasing	92
	1,210
Social care	
Cost efficiency programmes	121
Non cashable gains	58
	179
Corporate services	
Microsoft contract	30
Shared services	1
Electronic staff records	1
Electronic recruitment	6
	38
Public Funding and Regulation (PFR)	
Departmental operating costs	20
Arms length bodies	55
	75
Total	2,799

This breakdown correlates to the total efficiency gain calculated in July 2006 for the period to year ending March 2006. The gain for process improvement was subsequently revised to £777 million following identification of a calculation error. Procurement and PFR savings were revised by a net positive £22 million following receipt and validation of full year end data. The revised total reported saving up to March 2006 is £2,576 million.

Savings for social care are provided by local authorities in their annual efficiency statement. These statements provide a split of cashable and non cashable savings but are not required to provide a more detailed breakdown by project. This level of information is retained locally.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on training for general practitioners to become GPs with a specialist interest in each year since 1997, broken down by primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [122816]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

General Practitioners: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there are in the *(a)* Greater London area and *(b)* London borough of Havering. [122502]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are currently 4,896 general practitioners (GPs) in London, of which 122 are in the borough of Havering.

Note:

All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical services others and personal medical services others.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics.

Health Services: Regulation

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will commission research into public participation in healthcare regulation, including *(a)* selection and recruitment processes, *(b)* the framework for training, mentoring and supporting members, *(c)* organisation structures and processes designed to facilitate dialogue with the public and *(d)* closer working across and between regulatory bodies. [122127]

Andy Burnham: The Government has recently published a White Paper entitled "Trust, Assurance and Safety, The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century" which outlines the way forward on health professional regulation. This White Paper follows an extensive public consultation exercise involving over 2,700 responses, including petitions, on the findings of the reviews of medical and non-medical regulation of health care in the United Kingdom.

These reviews also involved consultation with both advisory groups and a call for ideas which resulted in over 250 responses. In addition, three pieces of research were commissioned for these reviews that focused on improving the impact on professionals and improving public safety. Research conducted for us by MORI considered public attitudes to medical regulation and revalidation.

Hospital Emergency Readmissions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency readmissions there have been to hospitals for those aged *(a)* 50 to 64, *(b)* 65 to 74 and *(c)* 75 years and over in each quarter of each of the last three years, broken down by primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [116245]

Andy Burnham: Currently the best computations of readmission rates are those released by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development. They publish their data on their website at:

www.nchod.nhs.uk

Presently there are three years' data from 2001-02 to 2003-04 at primary care trust (PCT) level, for the age groups 0-15, 16-74 and 75 and over. There are plans to produce by March 2007 an eight-year series up to 2005-06 at PCT and trust level.

Other analyses from this source could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Midwives

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her policy is on the Birthrate Plus work force planning tool. [122636]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Birthrate Plus is one of a number of useful work force planning tools that are available to local planners in the national health service.

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives there were in the NHS in England in each year since 1997, expressed in terms of *(a)* headcount and *(b)* whole-time equivalent, broken down by region. [122643]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information has been placed in the Library.

Midwives: Students

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student midwife training places were commissioned in each academic year since 1997; how many student midwives *(a)* entered training, *(b)* were in training and *(c)* qualified as midwives in each of those years; what the total cost to the public purse was of (i) all aspects of that training and (ii) the financial support paid to individual student midwives (1) in total and (2) on average per student midwife for each year; and what the attrition rate for student midwives was in each year. [122639]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Table 1 shows the number of midwife training places which were commissioned and the number of student midwives in training in each academic year since 1997.

The Department does not collect centrally the number of students who qualified as midwives in each of these years.

The total cost of training student midwives for each year since 1997 is set out in table 2.

The financial support paid to individual student midwives in total and on average per student midwife for each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library.

Information for England on the percentage of pre-registration midwifery students who have left their university course is given in table 3. Each year represents an intake year. A complete measure of attrition for a cohort of students will include withdrawal figures for each year of their programme. No data are available for 2001-02. The attrition data for the 2002-03 academic year onwards administered by the higher education statistics agency are in the process of being analysed by the health services information centre.

Table 1: midwifery pre-registration training commissions/student midwives in training

	Degree	*Diploma*	*Other*	*Total*
1996-97	161	498	993	1,652
1999-2000	395	620	757	1,772
2001-02	621	525	732	1,878
2002-03	709	724	677	2,110
2003-04	753	716	757	2,226
2004-05	895	744	735	2,374
2005-06	1,042	517	661	2,220

Source:
Quarterly monitoring return

Table 2: the total cost of training student midwives for each year since 1997

Financial year	*Total cost (£ million)*
1997-98	42.6
1998-99	34.6
1999-2000	45.6
2000-01	51.4
2001-02	58.7
2002-03	59.0
2003-04	65.8
2004-05	79.4
2005-06	82.2

Notes:
1. 1997-1998, 2004-2005 and 2005-06 are forecasts (actual outturn was only collected from 1999 onwards). No data are available for 2006-07.
2. Data in the above time series are not strictly comparable due to changes in the way data were collected.
3. Average bursary costs for nurses and midwives added to tuition costs from 2000-01 onwards.

Table 3: attrition rates of student midwives since 1997

	Percentage of midwives failing to complete courses
1997-98[1]	18.23
1998-99[1]	17.17
1999-2000[1]	14.59
2000-01[1]	6.7

[1] These data are not complete as they do not include withdrawal rates for each year of the course for the intake year specified.

NHS Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* care trusts and *(c)* foundation trusts in London are in budget deficit. [116840]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Based on the information in our quarter 3 2006-07 national health service finance report, we expect the NHS as a whole to achieve net financial balance by the end of March 2007.

The following table shows NHS trusts in London strategic health authority forecasting a year end deficit at quarter 3 2006-07. There were no care trusts in London forecasting a deficit at quarter 3. The Department does not collect financial information from hospitals.

NHS trust	2006-07 month nine forecast outturn (deficit) (£000)
Barking, Havering and Redbridge hospital	(15,741)
Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals	(9,409)
Bromley hospitals	(12,894)
Epsom and St. Helier university hospitals	(7,277)
Mayday Healthcare	(1,800)
Newham university hospital	(2,516)
North West London hospitals	(25,619)
Queen Elizabeth hospital	(36,079)
Queen Mary's Sidcup	(5,363)
St. George's Healthcare	(5,500)
The Lewisham hospital	(11,956)
West Middlesex university	(4,453)
Whipps Cross university hospital	(30,405)

Source:
Departmental quarter three NHS financial report 2006-07

The following table shows NHS foundation trusts in the London area recording a year to date deficit at the end of the quarter 2, 2006-07. This information has been provided by Monitor. Monitor publishes different quarterly financial information to the Department. Monitor publishes year to date data, the Department publishes forecast outturn and therefore, this information is not comparable. Monitor will publish its quarter 3 2006-07 financial data shortly.

NHS foundation trust	2006-07 month six year to date (Deficit) (£000)
University College London hospital	(9,000)
Homerton university hospital	(1,000)
Moorfields Eye hospital	(900)

Source:
Monitor, NHS Foundation Trusts: Report for six-month period to 30 September 2006.

NHS: Maternity Leave

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her Department's policy is on primary care trusts planning for maternity leave staffing cover; [122521]

(2) if she will place in the Library her Department's policy on primary care trusts providing staffing cover for front-line staff on maternity leave. [122536]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no specific policy governing maternity leave staffing cover. This is a matter for local employers. For those staff on Agenda for Change terms and conditions of service it is possible to move staff into a higher pay band to fill a position on a temporary basis as per paragraph 6.30 of the Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook. The hand book published by NHS Employers, can be found on their website at:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/agenda-for-change.cfm

The "NHS Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook" is available in the Library.

NHS: Vacancies

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department offers guidance to primary care trusts on maximum acceptable staff vacancy rates *(a)* across a trust as a whole and *(b)* for non-acute in-patient services. [122535]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not offer guidance to primary care trusts about the maximum rate of vacancies they should be carrying. Workforce planning is a matter for local determination.

Tomography

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to include diagnostic ultrasound as a listed service for the purposes of regulation and inspection by the Healthcare Commission; and what discussions she has had with the Healthcare Commission to explore how obstetric diagnosis ultrasound services could be regulated and inspected under existing legislation. [122771]

Andy Burnham: Independent hospitals, clinics and medical agencies providing any of the listed services set out in section 2(7) of the Care Standards Act 2000 are subject to regulation by the Healthcare Commission, unless exempted by any regulation made under that Act.

Diagnostic ultrasound techniques are not separately included as a listed service in section 2(7) of the 2000 Act. However the provision of obstetric services and, in connection with childbirth, medical services are among the listed services. Such services may include the use of some diagnostic ultrasound techniques.

The Department has no plans to include separately diagnostic ultrasound techniques as a listed service in the future.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets the Child Support Agency has for processing and reducing the volume of cases processed clerically; and if he will make a statement. [122884]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what targets the Child Support Agency has for processing and reducing the volume of cases processed clerically; and if he will make a statement. [122884]

The Child Support Agency has been set six targets by the Secretary of State for 2006/07, which were published in the Agency's Business Plan, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link: www.csa.gov.uk/pdf/English/reports/plan0607.pdf

Two of these targets relate to the processing and clearing of applications received since the new scheme was introduced in March 2003 and include the Agency's clerical cases. The first concerns the volume of applications being cleared and states that: by 31 March 2007, the Agency will have reduced the volume of uncleared new scheme applications by 25 per cent of the amount outstanding by the end of March 2006.

The second concerns the speed with which new applications should be processed and states that by 31 March 2007, the Agency will clear 55 per cent of new applications within 12 weeks of receipt and 80 per cent within 26 weeks.

Reducing the number of clerical cases is dependent on rectifying the existing defects on the Agency's computer system – work will continue over 2007 to resolve these defects. To date the Agency has reduced the amount of new cases that need to be processed clerically by introducing a number of fixes to the computer system. The Agency aims to restore its clerical cases onto the computer system when the system is working effectively.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many additional new scheme Child Support Agency cases were being processed clerically in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement; [122885]

(2) what proportion of clerical Child Support Agency cases involved parents with care in receipt of benefits in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [122893]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 15 March 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions two related questions:

how many additional new scheme Child Support Agency cases were being processed clerically in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement;

what proportion of clerical Child Support Agency cases involved parents with care in receipt of benefits in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement.

Information regarding the number of cases being processed clerically is available from March 2005 onwards and is published in table 20 of the December 2006 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_dec06.asp.

However, the information you have requested about the proportion of those cases that involved parents with care in receipt of benefits is not currently available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days training were provided to Child Support Agency staff in the last 12 months. [122896]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many days training were provided to Child Support Agency staff in the last 12 months. [122896]

As a result of a capability review under the Operational Improvement Plan, almost 2000 Executive Officers were placed in Team Leader or Complex Caseworker roles.

The Team Leader training includes sessions on Standards of Client Service and the importance of Quality Assurance in preventing complaints. Management skills training is included providing people with the skills to enable them to deal with attendance management, capability and conduct.

People identified as Complex Caseworker are receiving up to 16 weeks of training. This training provides Complex Caseworks with technical knowledge, time management skills, case practice, communication skills (to clients and colleagues) and peer assurance in order to maintain accuracy, and enables them to secure client outcomes on high risk and non-compliant clients.

The information requested is provided in the attached table:

I hope you find this answer helpful.

	Training days
February 2006	5,827
March 2006	6,142
April 2006	4,718
May 2006	5,384
June 2006	4,159
July 2006	5,250
August 2006	6,963
September 2006	7,986
October 2006	8,724
November 2006	11,590
December 2006	6,998
January 2007	7,970
Total	81,511

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency staff received training in each month since commencement of the Operational Improvement Plan; and if he will make a statement. [122897]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency staff received training in each month since commencement of the Operational Improvement Plan; and if he will make a statement. [122897]

As a result of a capability review under the Operational Improvement Plan, almost 2000 Executive Officers were placed in Team Leader or Complex Caseworker roles.

The Team Leader training includes sessions on Standards of Client Service and the importance of Quality Assurance in preventing complaints. Management skills training is included providing people with the skills to enable them to deal with attendance management, capability and conduct.

People identified as Complex Caseworker are receiving up to 16 weeks of training. This training provides Complex Caseworks

with technical knowledge, time management skills, case practice, communication skills (to clients and colleagues) and peer assurance in order to maintain accuracy, and enables them to secure client outcomes on high risk and non-compliant clients.

The information requested is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

	People trained
February 2006	570
March 2006	403
April 2006	232
May 2006	546
June 2006	412
July 2006	442
August 2006	416
September 2006	419
October 2006	344
November 2006	405
December 2006	600
January 2007	297
Total	5,086

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* total and *(b)* full-time equivalent Child Support Agency staff were engaged in processing (i) old scheme and (ii) new scheme maintenance claims in each month of the last two years for which figures are available. [122921]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 23 February 2007]*: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 15 March 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child support agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) total and (b) full-time equivalent Child support Agency staff were engaged in processing (i) old scheme and (ii) new scheme maintenance claims in each month of the last two years for which figures are available. [122921]

The attached table details the people working on processing new applications for each scheme in full-time equivalents for each month of the last two years. I regret that the information is not available on the number of individual people employed in these areas in each month.

The clearance process includes all work undertaken on applications for child maintenance until one of the following conditions is met: a parent with care has been identified as claiming Good Cause or is subject to a Reduced Benefit Decision; the application is identified as being change of circumstances on an existing case; the application is identified as being a change of circumstances on an existing case; the application has been closed; or for old scheme cases a maintenance assessment has been carried out and for new scheme cases, a payment arrangement between the parent with care and the non-resident parent is in place.

The Agency holds only a negligible number of completely unprocessed applications. The amount of work required to achieve clearance, and the length of time involved, varies considerable depending on, amongst other things, the circumstances of the parents and how readily they cooperate with Agency. The work undertaken by the Agency's New Client Teams extends far beyond simply clearing new applications through the computer system. A significant proportion of the work undertaken by the Agency's New Client Teams consists of setting up the first maintenance payments to the parent with care, and retaining responsibility for the growing caseload until the first fully complaint, on time payment is made by the non-resident parent.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

2005	*Old scheme*	*New scheme*
January	142	2,455
February	132	2,465
March	130	2,307
April	109	2,415
May	107	2,407
June	95	2,484
July	94	2,525
August	81	2,570
September	74	2,558
October	72	2,615
November	55	2,719
December	56	2,637
2006		
January	55	2,604
February	55	2,618
March	52	2,537
April	106	2,831
May	101	2,815
June	100	2,958
July	92	3,075
August	104	3,040
September	96	3,052
October	92	3,050
November	82	3,069
December	80	3,433

Notes:

1. The table includes all Agency people working on child maintenance applications for either the old or new schemes. These people continue working on applications beyond the point at which the application is recorded as cleared until the first full on-time payment has been made.
2. The information is derived from a clerical count provided monthly by each area within the Agency.
3. This count is made in whole time equivalents—there is no comparable count of people involved.
4. The numbers include people in Great Britain and Northern Ireland working for the Agency on cases from Great Britain.
5. People working on old scheme cases on CS2 are included in old scheme totals.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed in each of the six Child Support Agency call centres. [123159]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff are employed in each of the six Child Support Agency call centres. [123159]

The Agency does not operate a classic call centre model but seeks to route calls to relevant caseworkers. We do however, have a 'Helpline' for general enquiries and for where it is not possible to route calls to caseworkers. This 'Helpline' is operated from six regional centres supporting new scheme clients and one national

centre in Liverpool supporting old scheme clients and general enquiries. The number of full time equivalent staff in each centre is shown in the table below.

Call centres	System	Full-time equivalent staff
Dudley	CS2	64.84
Hastings	CS2	46.82
Falkirk	CS2	67.69
Plymouth	CS2	66.60
Birkenhead	CS2	74.69
Belfast	CS2	85.95
Liverpool	CSCS	128.90
Total call centre staff		535.49

The Agency has significantly improved its telephony service, and in the nine months to December 2006 answered 97% of calls, compared to 91% in the year ending March 2006, with an average waiting time of 25 seconds, down from 59 seconds in the year ending March 2006.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Departmental Websites

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many users registered their details to receive e-mail updates from the Pensions Reform website in each of the last six months; and how many people are registered to receive such updates. [118768]

James Purnell: At end of January there were 3,665 subscribers to the Pensions Forum website. Figures for last six months are contained in the following table:

Period	Total subscriptions
August 2006	2,292
September 2006	2,935
October 2006	3,355
November 2006	3,476
December 2006	3,640
January 2007	3,665

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pensions Reform blog has cost to administer since it was established. [118769]

James Purnell: The Pension Reform blog was launched on the DWP site in July 2006.

Ongoing maintenance and administration of the blog equates to half the time of a member of staff.

Employment Schemes: Costs

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost per unsubsidised job sustained for at least six months was of the *(a)* new deal for young people, *(b)* new deal 25 plus, *(c)* new deal 50 plus and *(d)* new deal for disabled people in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [120458]

Ms. Jim Murphy: The information is not available.

Housing Benefit: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average deduction made per household from which a non-dependent deduction was made from their housing benefit entitlement was in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in the last period for which figures are available; [125453]

(2) how many households in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex were subject to non-dependent deductions from housing benefit in the last year for which figures are available. [125454]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available below regional level.

National Insurance Numbers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases have been reported of *(a)* an individual using more than one national insurance number and *(b)* a national insurance number being used by more than one individual in each year since 1997. [100473]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases have been reported of *(a)* an individual using more than one national insurance number and *(b)* a national insurance number being used by more than one individual in each year since 1997. [102163]

Mr. Plaskitt: Cases of national insurance numbers being used by more than one individual may derive from fraud, customer error or official error; it is not possible to provide a breakdown of numbers from each cause.

Any fraud-related cases are rigorously pursed by our Fraud Investigation Service.

Information is only available from 2001 and is shown in the following tables.

Individuals found to be using more than one national insurance number

	Number of cases
2001	586
2002	447
2003	303
2004	513
2005	497

Cases of a national insurance number being used by more than one individual

	Number of cases
2001	2,539
2002	2,418
2003	2,533
2004	1,896
2005	1,991

Source:
Departmental Central Index front-line services.

New Deal

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down the number of repeat participants by the number of times each repeated for each New Deal programme in each year since the programme started. [102115]

Mr. Jim Murphy: More than two thirds of the people who start new deal are new to the programme and, of those who have been on new deal so far this year, less than 10 per cent. have participated more than twice. Some people will move in and out of employment after leaving new deal, but this is inevitable in a dynamic labour market.

People who suffer long periods of unemployment can find it particularly difficult getting back to work. The longer they are unemployed, the greater the barriers are to getting work. Getting people who face such barriers into work is a considerable achievement and we are working to ensure that every new deal entrant benefits from the adviser support and advice they receive to help them find and remain in employment.

The available information is in the following tables.

New deal for young people, participants in year

	Number of people who have participated							
	Total participants	*Twice*	*Three times*	*Four times*	*Five times*	*Six times*	*Seven times*	*Eight times*
1998	214,040	1,450	10	0	0	0	0	0
1999	223,050	24,920	370	0	0	0	0	0
2000	201,500	55,640	3,650	90	0	0	0	0
2001	185,520	52,790	13,190	670	30	0	0	0
2002	184,590	46,500	18,080	2,880	170	10	0	0
2003	190,030	44,800	18,460	5,100	590	40	0	0
2004	173,090	39,310	15,820	5,100	950	90	10	0
2005	170,950	38,970	14,970	4,930	1,050	110	10	10

New deal 25-plus, participants in year

	Number of people who have participated						
	Total participants	*Twice*	*Three times*	*Four times*	*Five times*	*Six times*	*Seven times*
1998	78,230	40	0	0	0	0	0
1999	148,880	20,140	90	0	0	0	0
2000	124,470	41,720	8,330	70	0	0	0
2001	124,600	28,330	10,180	1,230	20	0	0
2002	122,190	23,640	11,740	3,680	160	0	0
2003	113,930	22,710	9,660	3,360	350	30	0
2004	104,140	22,550	8,450	3,530	850	60	10
2005	89,600	19,780	7,640	3,270	1,110	100	20

New deal for lone parents, participants in year

	Number of people who have participated							
	Total participants	*Twice*	*Three times*	*Four times*	*Five times*	*Six times*	*Seven times*	*Eight times*
1998	15,980	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999	105,800	5,000	130	0	0	0	0	0
2000	116,020	13,590	1,020	50	0	0	0	0
2001	121,390	20,070	2,940	320	20	0	0	0
2002	151,610	33,380	7,060	1,180	190	20	0	0
2003	163,130	39,080	11,220	2,620	560	100	10	10
2004	180,460	46,390	15,820	4,740	1,280	320	80	30
2005	165,800	45,100	17,840	6,390	1,980	610	170	40

New deal for partners, participants in year

	Total participants	*Twice*
2004	1,980	0
2005	3,540	40

New deal for disabled people, participants in year

	Number of people who have participated					
	Total participants	*Twice*	*Three times*	*Four times*	*Five times*	*Six times*
2001	7,370	180	20	10	0	0
2002	35,640	1,430	110	20	0	0
2003	60,600	3,420	450	70	10	0
2004	100,040	7,330	880	130	20	0
2005	135,760	11,400	1,580	300	60	10

New deal 50-plus, participants in year

	Number of people who have participated		
	Total participants	*Twice*	*Three times*
2004	37,170	140	0
2005	54,130	710	10

Notes:
1. Latest complete calendar year data is to December 2005.
2. New deal for 25-plus data for 1998 relate to July to December.
3. New deal for lone parents data for 1998 relate to October to December.
4. New deal for partners data are only available from 2004 and for that year is for April to December.
5. New deal for disabled people data for 2001 relate to July to December.
6. New deal 50-plus data are only available from 2004.
7. People are included as participating in a particular year if they are recorded as participating at any point in that year. People participating on the programme in more than one year are included in the table in each relevant year.
8. Components may not sum to total due to rounding.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women leaving (i) the New Deal for Young People and (ii) New Deal 25 Plus (A) found a sustained job, (B) returned to out-of-work benefit immediately on leaving the programme and (C) returned to out-of-work benefit within 12 months, in each year since each programme was established. [106010]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following tables.

New deal for young people

Immediate destination[1] on leaving new deal for young people

	Percentage of leavers to sustained employment[2]	*Percentage of leavers to employment and benefits[3]*	*Percentage of leavers to out-of work benefits[4]*	*Percentage returning to claim out-of-work benefits[4] within 12 months of leaving the programme[5]*
Men				
1998	53	3	10	38
1999	46	5	22	53
2000	44	4	24	55
2001	42	3	23	56
2002	41	3	22	55
2003	41	3	22	53
2004	39	3	21	53
2005	35	2	24	—
Women				
1998	46	2	16	31
1999	42	5	28	42
2000	41	4	30	43

New deal for young people

Immediate destination[1] on leaving new deal for young people

	Percentage of leavers to sustained employment[2]	*Percentage of leavers to employment and benefits[3]*	*Percentage of leavers to out-of work benefits[4]*	*Percentage returning to claim out-of-work benefits[4] within 12 months of leaving the programme[5]*
2001	40	3	29	45
2002	38	3	30	46
2003	38	3	30	45
2004	37	3	29	43
2005	34	2	30	—

New deal 25 plus

Immediate destination[1] on leaving new deal 25 plus

	Percentage of leavers to sustained employment[2]	*Percentage of leavers to employment and benefits[3]*	*Percentage of leavers to out-of work benefits[4]*	*Percentage returning to claim out-of-work benefits[4] within 12 months of leaving the programme[5]*
Men				
1998	—	—	—	30
1999	—	—	—	33
2000	—	—	—	35
2001	32	2	39	37
2002	28	2	47	37
2003	27	2	48	38
2004	31	3	43	39
2005	28	2	45	—
Women				
1998	—	—	—	30
1999	—	—	—	32
2000	—	—	—	33
2001	30	8	42	32
2002	26	1	48	34
2003	25	1	48	32
2004	29	10	44	32
2005	27	10	46	—

[1] An immediate destination is defined as within two weeks of leaving new deal. For new deal 25 plus, this information is only available from April 2001 onwards.
[2] Sustained employment is defined as not returning to claim jobseeker's allowance for 13 weeks after leaving new deal for young people or new deal 25 plus to a job.
[3] Includes people who gain a job which lasts beyond 13 weeks but who are also claiming a benefit during, or for part of that period.
[4] Includes jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit and income support.
[5] Data are up to December 2004 to allow for a 12 month gap from leaving the programme.

Note:
All data are for complete calendar years apart from 1998 which, for new deal 25 plus, are from July when the programme started.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on the New Deal since 2 May 1997; and how many jobs have been created by the scheme. [106387]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Up to March 2006, £4.815 billion had been spent on the new deal programme since the programme started in January 1998.

Up until May 2006, 1,673,030 people had been helped into work through new deal.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total expenditure on providing for participants to attend a certified vocational training course when taking part in the Employment Option of the New Deal for Young People was in each year since 1998. [124054]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 28 February2007]:* The information is not available.

Pensions: Insolvency

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost of meeting the judgment of the Ombudsman's report on the matter of the employee pensions failure *(a)* over the next 60 years and *(b)* on an annual basis. [126334]

James Purnell: The High Court directed the Secretary of State to reconsider the first recommendation in the ombudsman's report "Trusting in the Pension's Promise". The court did not require the Department to make any payment. An estimate of the cost of implementing all of the ombudsman's proposals is given in the annex to the Government's Response to the Report by the Parliamentary Ombudsman published in June 2006.

Pensions: Uprating

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received someone else's personal details with their recent pensions uprating notification; and if he will make a statement. [125542]

James Purnell: In all, approximately 26,000 customers received uprating notifications intended for someone else. Of that number, approximately 24,500 were state pension customers and the remaining 1,500 were Jobcentre Plus customers in receipt of either bereavement benefit or widows benefit.

The process involved in distributing uprating notifications, including quality control processes, have been examined and enhanced to prevent this happening again. The volume of existing checks has also been increased to help provide further assurance.

Procurement Projects

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the 20 largest procurement projects initiated by his Department since May 1997 were; what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* cost to date and *(c)* consultancy fees were; and what the final cost was of each project which has been completed. [106581]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions conducts most of its procurements under competitively let framework agreements for common goods and services. Information on the few cases where procurements were conducted as projects since the Department was formed in 2001 is provided as follows. The Department has conducted a large number of other projects to achieve business change and modernise our systems. Many of these included procurement exercises that were not conducted as projects in their own right and it is not possible to isolate the related costs of these without incurring disproportionate cost.

£ million

Project to procure:	*Estimated contract value*	*Cost to date*	*Consultancy*
Estates Services (PRIME)	11,220	3,960	7
Post Office Card Account	1,000	625	0
Medical Services (to 2015)	666	80	0
Medical Services (to 2005)	534	n/a	0
Office Services[1]	331	n/a	0.9
Banking services	70	9	0
Record Storage	69	9	0.015
Post services	60	1	0

n/a = not applicable

[1] This Office Service contract expired in 2007 and the new contract begins on 1 March 2007.

Stakeholder Pensions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Stakeholder Pension Schemes Regulations 2000 and 2005 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125612]

James Purnell: The Stakeholder Pensions Regulations 2000, and the Stakeholder Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2005 were accompanied by regulatory impact assessments (RIAs), copies of which are available in the Library. These included an assessment of the impact of the regulations on business.

The cost to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra) of implementing the regulations, if any, is not separately identifiable.

State Retirement Pensions

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of retired persons reaching retirement age in the relevant year with a deficiency in National Insurance contributions qualifying for a full Category A state pension and being entitled to a Category B state pension by virtue of the National Insurance contributions of a spouse were women, in each year since 1979; [125507]

(2) what proportion of divorced retired persons reaching retirement age in the relevant year with a deficiency in National Insurance contributions

qualifying for a full Category A state pension and needing to rely upon the National Insurance contributions of a former spouse under section 48 of the Social Security (Contributions and Benefits) Act 1992 or its precursor were women, in each year since 1979. [125506]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what progress she has made in helping Jane-Louise Green, a constituent of the hon. Member for Stafford, to secure child support through the courts for her daughter from the estate of the deceased father. [127364]

Ms Harman: My Department have pressed the Trinidadian authorities for an update as to the progress of Ms Green's case. The Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Section (REMO) has discharged all its responsibilities in lodging the application and in pressing the Trinidadian authorities for updates in this matter. On 21 February 2007 officials sent a letter to the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Trinidad lodging a formal complaint concerning the lack of response to the previous correspondence and to the discourtesy shown to Ms Green regarding her case. A request was also made for the outcome of the appeal process. To date no response has been forthcoming from Trinidad but officials will continue to press until the information sought is forthcoming and are now in contact with the High Commission in Trinidad to ascertain what assistance they can provide.

Divorce

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many decrees of judicial separation were granted in England and Wales in each year since 1979. [125505]

Ms Harman: Decrees of judicial separation granted in England and Wales since 1979 are tabled as follows. Figures for 2006 are not yet available.

	Petitions filed	*Decrees of Judicial separation granted*
1979	3,650	1,640
1980	5,423	2,560
1981	6,036	3,334
1982	7,480	4,026
1983	7,430	4,852
1984	6,098	4,445
1985	3,479	2,344
1986	3,428	1,768
1987	3,199	1,639
1988	2,925	1,917
1990	2,990	1,794
1991	2,588	1,747
1992	2,434	1,452
1993	2,251	1,413
1994	4,358	1,350
1995	3,349	1,543
1996	2,795	1,199
1997	1,078	589
1998	916	519
1999	882	696
2000	650	540
2001	535	925
2002	1,001	560
2003	826	467
2004	742	419
2005	692	387

Freedom of Information: Members' Constituency Work

Mr. Gale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will bring forward measures to prevent correspondence between hon. Members and *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* hospital trusts relating to constituents' case work from being released under Freedom of Information requests. [127688]

Bridget Prentice: The Freedom of Information Act already contains a number of exemptions that protect information held by public authorities where appropriate. This may include information contained in hon. Members' correspondence. The hon. Gentleman may be aware that the right hon. Member for Penrith and The Border has tabled a Private Member's Bill which would amend the Freedom of Information Act to create a single exemption to cover hon. Members' correspondence.

Lords Lieutenant

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which Deputy Lords Lieutenant have been appointed since 1997; and how many of those are *(a)* female, *(b)* black and *(c)* Asian; [127239]

Ms Harman: I refer my right hon. Friend to my answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2042W. This list of Deputy Lieutenants will also include up-to-date ethnic and gender monitoring statistics. The information will be sent to my right hon. Friend and copies of these documents will be placed in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Silverfish Productions

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts her Department awarded to Silverfish Productions Limited in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [127820]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has not awarded any contracts to Silverfish Productions Ltd. in the last three years.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126795]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006.

In each of the last five years no work permits have been applied for; this response includes the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Figures for the Department's agencies are not held centrally.

Fire Service: Pensions

Mr. Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued by her Department on the eligibility of multi-tier entrants for future membership of the firefighters' pension scheme; what assessment she has made of the impact of such guidance on the multi-tier entry schemes, with particular reference to the pilot graduate entry scheme operated by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and other fire services; what representations she has received from the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority on such issues; and if she will make a statement. [R] [127684]

Angela E. Smith: Eligibility for membership of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme is restricted to firefighters whose role on taking up employment with a fire and rescue authority includes resolving operational incidents, or leading and supervising others in the resolution of such incidents. In consequence those who join the Fire and Rescue Service at station manager, or above, are excluded from the scheme. Guidance to this effect has been issued to the Service.

The justification for a separate pension scheme with a normal pension age of 60 is that the duties of an operational firefighter are physically onerous and require high standards of physical fitness. These particular standards do not apply for senior management posts and therefore membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme, with a normal pension age of 65, is considered more appropriate.

The issue was fully discussed by the highly representative Firefighters' Pension Committee during consultation on the new pension arrangements. The provision reflects the outcome of that discussion.

Correspondence has been received from the Commissioner, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, and a response is being given setting out our position.

Housing: Air Pollution

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the percentage of private homes in the borough of *(a)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(b)* Kingston-upon-Thames which have carbon monoxide levels higher than those deemed safe by the World Health Organisation. [126022]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* No specific data on carbon monoxide levels are available at local authority levels.

Combustion safety in buildings is covered by Part J, Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems, of the Building Regulations. Gas installation is further covered by the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations. These set out the standards and precautions that should be taken when installing combustion appliances.

General accident statistics have shown that there has been an upward trend in low level (non fatal) carbon monoxide poisoning but it is not clear whether this is due to better diagnosis or other issues. The Department of Health issues regular guidance to general practitioners on the symptoms and effects of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Local Government: EC Action

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the timetable is for ratifying the European Charter of Local Self-Government; [127368]

(2) what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association, *(b)* London councils and *(c)* other representative local government bodies on the European Charter of Local Self-Government. [127347]

Mr. Woolas: The Government ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government on 24 April 1998.

Ratification was widely welcomed by local government as being a symbol of the Government's commitment to a new and constructive partnership with local government, a commitment that we are continuing to develop not least through the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill currently before the House.

Lyons Inquiry

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the Lyons Report. [127466]

Mr. Woolas: The final report of the Lyons Inquiry will be published around the time of the Budget 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will answer the letter of 8 May 2006 from the hon. Member for Chichester on behalf of his constituent Stephen Crossley. [123256]

Angela E. Smith: My noble Friend Baroness Andrews has now replied to the hon. Gentleman's letter. I apologise for the unacceptably long delay in replying which was unfortunately due to an administrative error.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions she has had with representatives of the banking industry on the effect of bank charges on levels of social exclusion. [127029]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

Government Ministers and officials hold discussions with the banking industry on a wide range of issues as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Business: EC Action

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Prime Minister's response to the hon. Member for North Essex following the statement on the European Council of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 35-36, if she will produce an assessment of the cost to UK business of EU administrative burdens; and if she will produce quarterly figures to show how it changes in future years. [127699]

Hilary Armstrong: 19 Government Departments and regulators undertook an exercise, supported by industry, to measure the administrative burdens that impact businesses and the third sector as a result of both domestic and international regulations (including those from the EU).

Upon the completion of these exercises, the Government set net targets to reduce administrative burdens by 2010. These were followed by publication of Simplification plans to deliver the savings. The estimated administrative burdens for each Department are available in each Department's simplification plan.

Copies of these plans are available online at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/reform/simplifying/plans.asp

Copies are also available in the Library for the reference of Members.

These plans will be updated annually to outline progress.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in his Department since its formation; how much is planned to be spent in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [123933]

(2) how much his Department spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since its formation; how much is planned to be spent in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [125097]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Staff in my Department are seconded from the Department for Communities and Local Government. My Office has not spent anything on these schemes.

Ministerial Duties

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his diary arrangements were during each period for which he has assumed the Prime Minister's responsibilities in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [121390]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) on 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1384-85.

Primary Care Trusts

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how often the *(a)* Prime Minister's Decision Unit and *(b)* Cabinet Office Impact Review Team visit each primary care trust; and whether the reports resulting from their visits are made public. [119821]

Hilary Armstrong: I have been asked to reply.

The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit visits a sample of PCTs to gain a deeper understanding of the delivery of Government policy. The Unit has visited some PCTs more than once to track delivery issues over time. The reports resulting from these visits constitute confidential advice to Ministers and are not published. The Cabinet Office does not have an Impact Review Team.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Darfur

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contingency plans the Government have drawn up to implement possible international intervention in Darfur. [125697]

Margaret Beckett: There is already substantial international intervention in Darfur. The African Union (AU) has deployed a peacekeeping force and the UN continues to mount its largest humanitarian operation in the world there. The international community is seeking to reinforce the AU force with UN elements, culminating in the creation of a much larger hybrid UN/AU force. And, the AU and UN are working for the resumption of the political process in Darfur.

The Government have been at the forefront of international action on Darfur. We have contributed £190 million to the humanitarian relief effort since April 2004 and £67 million to the AU force. We are pressing the AU and the UN for rapid movement on the political process and on the UN's military support package.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what timetable the Government have set for progress on the implementation of phase 3 of the international force in Darfur; what further steps she expects to take if deadlines are not met; and if she will make a statement. [125701]

Margaret Beckett: We are pressing the UN and the African Union (AU) to agree as rapidly as possible on the details of phase 3 of the UN's support package to the AU Mission in Sudan (ie the creation of the hybrid UN/AU force), and to implement it as soon as possible thereafter. If the Government of Sudan fail to co-operate with implementation, the international community will need to consider what measures to take against them in consequence.

Darfur: Military Aircraft

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on the *(a)* humanitarian and *(b)* security situation in Darfur of the implementation of a no-fly-zone in Darfur. [125698]

Margaret Beckett: The situation in Darfur is totally unacceptable, the overall security situation is poor, and humanitarian access is precarious. We would need to take careful account of the effects on the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur of any measure such as sanctions or a no-fly-zone that we sought to impose with respect to that territory.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what preparations the Government are making with NATO allies for the implementation of a no-fly-zone in Darfur. [125696]

Margaret Beckett: The Government of Sudan have consistently failed to protect their citizens in Darfur. The time has come to apply tough measures against them. We are working on the extension of the UN arms embargo on Darfur to the whole of Sudan and the imposition of further sanctions against individuals in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005). We would consider further measures, such as a no-fly-zone, if the Government of Sudan continued to defy the will of the international community. We are discussing with close allies what we would do in this eventuality.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126802]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not applied for any work permits in the past five years. FCO Services applied for two work permits in 2003.

IPPR

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding her Department has provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since May 1997; and for what purpose. [125713]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made 10 payments to the Institute for Public Policy and Research (IPPR), and no payments to IPPR Trading Ltd since May 1997. The payments range in value from £9.49 to £40,000. It is not possible to establish the precise details relating to earlier payments without incurring disproportionate cost, but from the information available all payments were for goods or services received from the IPPR, rather than funding to this organisation.

Lebanon: Overseas Companies

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what visits the British Ambassador in Beirut has made to British-owned companies in Lebanon. [127236]

Dr. Howells: Since her arrival in Beirut in early October 2006, the British ambassador has met with representatives of a number of British-owned companies actively involved in Lebanon. The ambassador has also met with members of two outward trade missions to Beirut—these were the Middle East Association and British Expertise. In addition, the UK Trade and Investment representatives in Beirut are continuously engaged in promoting British business interests in Lebanon.

Nepal: Elections

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries will send international observers to the forthcoming elections to the Constituent Assembly in Nepal. [127500]

Dr. Howells: Although dates for elections to a Constituent Assembly in Nepal have yet to be confirmed, a number of countries have already approached the UN team in Kathmandu to offer support. In particular, Japan has recently indicated that it is prepared to send election monitors. South Korea has also agreed to provide computer equipment to the Election Commission.

The European Commission sent an election exploratory mission to Nepal in February and is now considering the possibility of sending a team of election monitors together with other forms of assistance to ensure that the elections are free and fair.

Until Prime Minister Koirala formally announces dates for the elections, it is difficult for countries to commit to providing international observers. In advance of this decision, we are working, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development Global Conflict Prevention Pool, with the Carter Centre and the Asia Foundation to ensure a wide deployment of both independent national observers and international monitors to the elections.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that the elections to the Constituent Assembly in Nepal are free and fair. [127501]

Dr. Howells: In advance of the elections, we are working hard to help the Government of Nepal to provide conditions in which political parties are able to

campaign and voters cast their votes free from threats, intimidation and violence. We are working in partnership with the Election Commission, the UN and a number of Government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to ensure that elections to the Constituent Assembly are free and fair. Our support to the election process ranges widely from co-funding the work of the UN Mission in Nepal in the weapons monitoring process to a contribution directly to the Peace Fund, which aims to address voter education. In addition, we have contributed funds to the Election Commission and also to the Carter Centre who will provide long-term observers to the elections as well as to the Asia Foundation to bring together local NGOs to monitor the elections.

The forthcoming elections to a Constituent Assembly in Nepal will be key to sustaining the momentum of the current peace process. However, it is vital that they are credible, free and fair and that they allow a voice to marginalised groups. We will continue to work with the Government of Nepal, our international partners and NGOs to ensure free and fair elections take place.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of recent conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and terrorists in the Batticaloa district; and what estimate she has made of the number of internally displaced persons who have been affected by the conflict. [127506]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer that I gave to him on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 246-247W.

We understand that hostilities between the Sri Lankan armed forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Batticaloa have resulted in the displacement of over 100,000 people. This number is likely to rise. The Department for International Development is considering a UN request for donor contributions to the Common Humanitarian Action Plan for Sri Lanka.

Sudan: Sanctions

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what measures are part of the Plan B package of sanctions against the Government of Sudan; and if she will make a statement; [125699]

(2) what discussions she has had with her *(a)* US, *(b)* EU and *(c)* African Union counterpart on the Plan B sanctions against the Government of Sudan; what the outcome was of these discussions; and if she will make a statement. [125700]

Margaret Beckett: The situation in Darfur is totally unacceptable. The Government of Sudan and rebel groups are regularly violating the ceasefire, as well as various UN Security Council Resolutions.

The UK has consistently made clear that tougher measures should follow if the Government of Sudan and rebel groups fail to abide by their commitments. We believe the time has now come to act. We want to see the UN's arms embargo on Darfur extended to the whole of Sudan and sanctions imposed on a further set of individuals in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005). We are pressing other members of the Security Council to agree these measures and have already made the case for them with our EU partners. Following our lobbying, the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting on 5 March agreed strong conclusions supporting the need for further action from the UN Security Council.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anabolic Steroids: Misuse

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to tackle the *(a)* use and *(b)* sale on the internet of anabolic steroids. [127276]

Mr. Coaker: The Government recognise the harms associated with the misuse of anabolic steroids and have controlled their availability under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. This is only one part of the effort to reduce misuse. Education and prevention are key measures. The FRANK campaign makes it clear that the misuse of steroids is dangerous and can lead to some potentially fatal medical problems. The harmful short and long-term effects of anabolic steroid use are also described in the most recent version of the Department of Health publication "Dangerousness of drugs" (2003). Needles and syringe exchange services are also available to provide harm reduction paraphernalia to those who are at risk of blood borne virus infection (HIV, hepatitis B and C) by sharing injecting equipment.

The Government and the law enforcement agencies take very seriously the use of the internet for the advertising, and in some cases the sale, of controlled drugs. Where a website is hosted by a UK Internet Service Provider (ISP) and contains material which is illegal, the agencies can issue the ISP concerned with a notice and take down order to remove the offending material. UK ISPs have a very good record of removing such sites following notification.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps police forces are taking to tackle the availability of anabolic steroids. [127400]

Mr. Coaker: It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Act to produce, supply or possess/import/export with intent to supply without a licence. Police forces have operational discretion when enforcing the law.

Angel Lodge, Wakefield

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to make an announcement on whether the bid to site initial accommodation facilities at Angel Lodge in Wakefield has been successful. [116231]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 January 2007]:* We have decided to use Angel Lodge to offer initial accommodation for asylum seekers in Wakefield. This facility will be used to complement similar facilities already operating in Leeds and Barnsley. We expect first entrants to the property in the week beginning 19 March and will operate the site at a reduced capacity in the first instance.

Animal Welfare: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of animal abuse occurred in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [126148]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to increase the number of antisocial behaviour co-ordinators in England and Wales. [126419]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The Home Office currently provides each Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership with £25,000 via the Safer Stronger Communities Fund to assist local areas tackle antisocial behaviour through the appointment of ASB co-ordinators. Ultimately, however, the number of co-ordinators appointed is a matter for each local area to determine.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has held on introducing new measures to combat antisocial behaviour in England and Wales. [126420]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary launched the consultation paper "Strengthening powers to tackle antisocial behaviour" on 14 November 2006 seeking views on proposals for strengthening powers to tackle antisocial behaviour.

The proposals included: the case for new front-line powers to tackle antisocial behaviour; a deferred Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND); and a new Premises Closure Order.

The consultation closed on 6 February 2007 and a summary of responses will be published in due course.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of offenders receiving multiple penalty notices for disorder. [126297]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of people issued with more than one Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) in England and Wales are not held centrally and no estimate has been made. However, police forces do keep records of PND recipients on local databases which help inform local operational decisions. Forces are also required to enter details of PNDs issued for recordable offences onto the Police National Computer, but not all PND offences are recordable.

Asylum: Russia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were granted asylum in the UK, based upon a well founded fear of persecution by *(a)* the Russian Federation and *(b)* other territories included in Part II of the Extradition Act 2003 in each year since 2000; and how many grants of asylum from the Russian Federation in each year were related to events in Chechnya. [126282]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on asylum decisions is published in quarterly web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin "Asylum Statistics United Kingdom". Copies of these publications and others relating to general immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigratibn1.html.

CCTV: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many publicly-funded CCTV cameras were in operation in Eastbourne in each of the last five years. [125447]

Mr. McNulty: No data on the number of publicly-funded CCTV cameras operating on a local or on a national level are centrally held by the Home Office.

Community Support Officers: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last five years. [125450]

Mr. McNulty: Police community support officers (PCSOs) were introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002; therefore data for PCSO strength are available from 2002-03 onwards.

PCSO strength data are not centrally collected at the borough level; therefore figures for Eastbourne are not available. PCSO strength data are not centrally collected at the county level, so figures for East Sussex are not available. PCSO strength data are collected at the force level, so data for Sussex police force for the requested time periods are given in the table.

PCSO strength data will be centrally collected at the force basic command unit level from 2006-07 onwards.

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] for Sussex police as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2006[3]

At 31 March each year	Police force: Sussex Number
2003	22
2004	83
2005[4]	228
2006[4]	257

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.
[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

Crime: Bus Services

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many reported crimes committed on bus services in the Greater London area there were in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2004; [126741]

(2) how many robberies of personal property were reported as having been committed on public buses in the Greater London area in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2004; [126849]

(3) how many physical assaults on public buses in the Greater London area were reported in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2004; and how many of these assaults were on (i) drivers and (ii) passengers. [126850]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally. Offences committed in relation to bus services cannot be separately identified in the recorded crime series.

Crime: Hospitals

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed in each hospital in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by type of crime. [126570]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics. Crimes specifically occurring in hospitals cannot be separately identified in this data series.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cases of *(a)* violent crime and *(b)* serious violent crime were reported in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997; [126302]

(2) how many domestic burglaries were reported in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997; [126313]

(3) how many drug offences were reported in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [126314]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the following tables. Statistics for the Jarrow constituency are not available centrally and figures for South Tyneside relate to the South Tyneside crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police, 1997

Offence	Number
South Tyneside CDRP	
Violent crime	n/a
More serious violence	n/a
Domestic burglary	n/a
Drug offences	n/a
North East Region	
Violent crime	12,307
More serious violence	1,007
Domestic burglary	31,310
Drug offences	1,076
England and Wales	
Violent crime	347,064
More serious violence	23,581
Domestic burglary	519,265
Drug offences[1]	23,153

n/a = Not available.
[1] Trafficking in controlled drugs only for 1997.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Offence	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	Number 2001-02
South Tyneside CDRP				
Violent crime	n/a	1,517	1,749	1,919
More serious violence	n/a	n/a	n/a	90
Domestic burglary	n/a	1,351	1,337	1,114
Drug offences	n/a	n/a	n/a	509
North East Region				
Violent crime	24,374	26,097	25,113	30,322
More serious violence	1,114	1,227	1,185	1,319
Domestic burglary	28,806	24,300	21,720	23,614
Drug offences	6,442	6,460	6,397	7,230
England and Wales				
Violent crime	605,797	703,105	733,374	813,121
More serious violence	27,047	30,445	31,666	32,366
Domestic burglary	473,349	442,602	402,984	430,347
Drug offences	135,945	121,866	113,458	121,393

n/a = Not available.
Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Number

Offence	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
South Tyneside CDRP				
Violent crime	2,859	2,752	2,504	2,854
More serious violence	82	71	81	83
Domestic burglary	1,169	1,036	792	647
Drug offences	690	672	692	739
North East Region				
Violent crime	44,558	45,896	46,488	51,122
More serious violence	1,500	1,597	1,665	1,624
Domestic burglary	21,583	19,550	14,934	13,095
Drug offences	9,014	7,987	7,149	8,280
England and Wales				
Violent crime	1,004,599	1,123,710	1,200,991	1,220,198
More serious violence	39,652	44,946	46,126	40,330
Domestic burglary	437,583	402,345	321,461	300,555
Drug offences	143,320	143,511	145,546	178,502

Notes:
1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.
3. Includes British Transport police from 2002-03.

Departments: Equal Opportunities

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has a gender *(a)* strategy and *(b)* equality action plan in place. [125104]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* The Home Office and its agencies have a five year Race and Diversity programme which drives their commitment to mainstreaming gender equality into their people priorities, policies and functions. This includes equality impact assessment of policies and functions with particular reference to gender equality.

The Home Office is working towards publication of a gender equality scheme by 30 April 2007. It is identifying key stakeholders with whom policy officials will work to produce the necessary measures to *(a)* eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment and *(b)* promote equality of opportunity between women and men.

All steps, both current and planned, will conform with those set out in the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Public Authorities)(Statutory Duties) Order 2006 (No. 2930) which comes into force on 6 April 2007.

Departments: PFI

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which future projects his Department is considering a private finance initiative deal; what the estimated lifetime value of each potential contract is; and what period each will cover. [125189]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Secretary announced when he visited HMP Kennett on 16 February that new prisons would be procured under the private finance initiative, the first two will be at Maghull and Belmarsh West. Following that announcement we will shortly be publishing an advertisement in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) commencing the competition for the first prison. Lifetime costs will be estimated for each prison so that we can compare these estimates against those put forward by bidders. It is estimated that the contracts will last for 25 years from the commencement of operations.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the incidence of violence in the home inflicted on a parent by a dependent child. [126676]

Mr. McNulty: The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales, but this is not broken down by the relationship between the offender and the victim.

The 2004-05 and 2005-06 British Crime Surveys also included a self-completion module on intimate violence (partner abuse, family abuse, sexual assaults and stalking). This contained more detailed questions about experiences of intimate violence. Results from the 2005-06 BCS self-completion module were published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07, which included information about the prevalence of family abuse but not by children specifically.

According to the 2005-06 BCS, 12 per cent. of women and 9 per cent. of men had experienced family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats and/or violence by a parent, step-parent or other family member) since the age of 16. 3 per cent. of women and 2 per cent. of men reported having experienced family abuse in the 12 months prior to their interview.

The Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) provides information about the prevalence of offending among the general population. In the survey, if someone reports that they have committed an assault in the last 12 months, they are then asked about their relationship to the victim. According to the latest OCJS figures, taken from the 2005 survey, in 3 per cent. of incidents of assaults by 10 to 25-year-olds, the victims are the parents of the offender. Details for dependent children are not available.

Drugs: Crime

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment has been made of the effect of *(a)* drug misuse and *(b)* alcohol abuse on criminal behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [119116]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 February 2007]:* The Home Office has commissioned research on the association of drug and alcohol use with specific aspects of offending, and routinely collates information on the proportion of alcohol related violent crime based on an assessment by the victim.

Published Home Office research estimates that 15 per cent. of all persons arrested for any offence reported that they had committed a crime in order to obtain drugs in the last four weeks. The proportion increased to 46 per cent. among those persons who reported taking heroin, crack or cocaine in the same four-week period. This estimate is published in the Arrestee Survey Annual Report: October 2003-September 2004.

Information which is routinely published from the British Crime Survey (BCS) provides an assessment of alcohol related violent crime. In 2005-06 it is estimated that victims believed the offenders to be under the influence of alcohol in 44 per cent. of all violent incidents. This information is contained in the statistical publication Crime in England and Wales 2005-06.

Additional research findings from the Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) suggest that being drunk once a month or more in the last year is associated with offending among 10 to 25-year-olds. This information is contained in the report "Young People and Crime: Findings from the 2005 Offending Crime and Justice Survey" and was published in December 2006.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Iraqi, *(b)* Afghan and *(c)* Somali nationals have been waiting for determination of their application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK for more than (i) six, (ii) 12 and (iii) 24 months; and if he will make a statement. [123359]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 February 2007]:* The requested information is listed in the following table.

On the whole these are cases which are not straightforward and require additional consideration.

Non-asylum, indefinite leave to remain applications made in the UK awaiting consideration over each of the listed periods from end of January 2007[1]

Nationality	*Cases from 6 up to but not including 12 months old*	*Cases from 12 up to but not including 24 months old*	*Cases 24 months old and over*
Afghanistan	275	725	50
Iraq	775	450	25
Somalia	50	100	75
Total	1,100	1,275	150

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 25.

Note:
The above data are not provided under the National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Human Trafficking

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to publish the Government's action plan against trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [126531]

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1958W, on human trafficking, in which month he plans to publish the UK Action Plan against human trafficking. [126758]

Mr. Coaker: The Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking is currently being developed and we are aiming to publish it in March.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to question 124361, on human trafficking, tabled by the hon. Member for Totnes on 26 February 2007. [126759]

Mr. Coaker: A reply to question 124361 tabled on the 26 February 2007 by the hon. Gentleman on the Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking was answered on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2048W.

Identity Cards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the likely rate of error of identity cards. [126594]

Joan Ryan: An estimate for the likely number of errors on identity cards produced cannot be finalised until further design and testing of technologies underpinning the issuing process is completed.

There will be a number of steps taken to ensure the accuracy of information to be recorded on identity cards and held on the National Identity Register. These include the following:

Checks to verify information provided by applicants against other sources (e.g. identity information held by other Government Departments) in order to confirm its veracity.

Physical examination of relevant supporting documentation to ensure that it is valid and corresponds with information

provided on the application form and the results from the electronic checks mentioned above.

Attendance in person, allowing information to be clarified and checked with the applicant if necessary.

The production of effective enrolment procedures and materials. These will be designed on the basis of existing experience gained from the award winning customer service processes in place at the Identity and Passport Service for issuing passports to ensure they are clear and citizen friendly in order to reduce the potential for errors caused by innocent mistakes by applicants.

The implementation of robust anti-fraud procedures. Security policies and appropriate working procedures are being designed to prevent and detect fraud originating from either applicants or staff members.

The introduction of the recording of biometric information such as fingerprints. Biometric recording provides the ability to make a much stronger link between the information recorded on the register and the individual associated with it, thus providing a more powerful means to detect attempts by individuals to register multiple identities.

Identity Cards: Fees and Charges

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the likely fee for an individual to obtain a stand-alone identity card without a passport element. [125644]

Joan Ryan: My right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke) announced on 13 October 2005:

"It will be affordable to set a charge of £30 at current prices for a standalone ID card which is valid for 10 years. This will be affordable within current Home Office spending plans."

Legislation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will subject the *(a)* Identity Cards Act 2006 and *(b)* Terrorism Act 2006 to post-legislative scrutiny. [126951]

Joan Ryan: We have no plans for formal post-legislative scrutiny of this legislation. However, the National Identity Scheme Commissioner, to be appointed under section 22 of the Identity Cards Act 2006, will prepare annual reports which will be published and laid before Parliament on the operation of the National Identity Scheme under the Identity Cards Act. In addition Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, the independent reviewer of terrorist legislation, provides an annual report on the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000. The Terrorism Act 2006 largely amends the 2000 Act and will therefore also be covered by his annual reports.

Licensing Laws

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of *(a)* allowing disorderly conduct on licensed premises and *(b)* selling alcohol to people who are drunk in each year since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [126432]

John Reid: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform show that there were no convictions at all courts under the Licensing Act 2003 for either *(a)* allowing disorderly conduct on licensed premises or *(b)* selling alcohol to people who are drunk in England and Wales in 2005.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

National Identity Register

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what biometric information will be required for an EEA national to acquire a registration certificate under the plans for a national identity register. [122004]

John Reid: There are no immediate plans to record biometric information on registration certificates, although we will keep this under review in the light of developments elsewhere in Europe as well as plans for the National Identity Scheme, which include the issue of biometric immigration documents to foreign (non EEA) nationals from 2008 and biometric identity cards to British citizens from 2009.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision is being made for the National Identity Register to be used as a population register. [127212]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The National Identity Register is intended eventually to contain up-to-date identity information for all United Kingdom residents aged 16 and over. This will include name, age, address, nationality and biometric information, such as photograph and fingerprints. The National Identity Register will then be able to serve as a United Kingdom adult population register.

National Policing Improvement Agency

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from *(a)* the chairman designate and *(b)* the chief executive designate of the National Policing Improvement Agency on its budget. [127291]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The designate NPIA chair and chief executive have met my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and I on a regular basis over the last six months and the NPIA budget for 2007-08 has been an item for discussion on several of those occasions.

The NPIA chief executive designate and director of resources have been fully consulted during the financial planning round and the provisional budget delegated to the NPIA on 28 February reflected those discussions with the NPIA.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the budget of the National Policing Improvement Agency to be agreed. [127292]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The Home Office issued the NPIA with a provisional 2007-08 budget delegation on 28 February and a formal delegation to the NPIA will take place once a number of residual issues around overhead costs transferring from the Home Office have been resolved.

The NPIA shadow board discussed the provisional budget at their meeting on 2 March and agreed savings initiatives required by the NPIA to enable the agency to deliver its programme of work within the budget available and subject to resolution of the residual issues mentioned above. The Home Office is satisfied that the budget delegated will meet the agency's requirements for its first year of operation.

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much compensation was paid to foreign prisoners detained beyond the expiry of their sentence in 2006; [125645]

(2) how many foreign prisoners received compensation for being detained beyond the expiry of their sentence in 2006. [125646]

Mr. Byrne: The director general of the immigration and nationality directorate, wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007 and provided the most accurate and robust information available on compensation payments to foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners had been detained for more than three months after the expiry of their sentence on 31 December 2006. [125647]

Mr. Byrne: The director general of the immigration and nationality directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007, providing the most accurate information currently available on the detention of time-served foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Parenting Orders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting orders arising from criminal conduct or anti-social behaviour were issued in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area; how many were breached; how many prosecutions were mounted against those breaching such orders; how many such prosecutions were successful; and if he will make a statement. [126145]

Mr. McNulty: A table showing parenting orders arising from criminal conduct or antisocial behaviour as reported by the Youth Justice Board using figures recorded by youth offending teams since parenting orders were commenced across England and Wales, follows. These figures are by youth offending team area; they are not recorded by local authority area.

Youth offending teams do not record numbers breached, prosecutions or convictions for breach. The figures reported to the Home Office on breaches of parenting orders have not been given because their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Quality checks have shown that breach data are unsuitable for publication.

The Home Office has started a programme of work looking at the quality of existing data on court sentencing and how it might be improved.

All parenting orders imposed (crime and ASB)

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Overall total 2000-01 to 2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	6	6	9	9	10	18	58
Barnet	1	7	2	11	4	5	30
Barnsley	8	4	6	17	2	1	38
Bath and North East Somerset	6	1	3	3	8	3	24
Bedfordshire	5	5	5	0	4	7	26
Bexley	0	3	3	2	0	0	8
Birmingham	0	10	9	26	61	30	136
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	4	0	0	1	5
Blackpool	5	4	2	12	11	20	54
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	0	4	10	6	8	6	34
Bolton	18	13	12	1	6	3	53
Bournemouth and Poole	8	1	1	4	9	6	29
Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bradford	1	9	18	14	13	11	66
Brent	1	0	2	6	9	9	27
Bridgend	0	1	0	10	4	2	17
Brighton and Hove	0	1	3	2	15	8	29
Bristol	4	2	11	2	5	5	29
Bromley	0	2	2	3	0	4	11
Buckinghamshire	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
Bury	2	3	3	2	0	4	14
Calderdale	6	9	22	5	5	10	57
Cambridgeshire	0	1	4	1	2	13	21
Camden	0	0	0	0	7	2	9

All parenting orders imposed (crime and ASB)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Overall total 2000-01 to 2005-06
Cardiff	0	1	3	2	5	1	12
Carmarthenshire	0	1	6	4	4	7	22
Ceredigion[1]	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Cheshire	1	1	0	1	5	7	15
Conwy and Denbighshire	5	2	4	1	3	5	20
Cornwall	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
Coventry	1	2	5	1	3	4	16
Croydon	0	7	9	1	37	36	90
Cumbria	8	4	11	5	18	22	68
Darlington	8	7	7	10	16	10	58
Derby	0	1	2	1	5	0	9
Derbyshire	14	7	5	7	9	12	54
Devon	5	0	1	0	0	0	6
Doncaster	6	0	1	2	2	0	11
Dorset	0	8	2	2	10	6	28
Dudley	0	0	3	10	4	12	29
Durham	9	9	4	3	36	15	76
Ealing	3	7	6	1	9	10	36
East Riding of Yorkshire	3	6	4	1	5	2	21
East Sussex	14	16	10	12	24	12	88
Enfield	5	2	2	6	7	10	32
Essex	8	8	27	16	22	31	112
Flintshire[2]	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Gateshead	38	22	15	16	11	12	114
Gloucestershire	0	1	9	0	3	1	14
Greenwich	20	4	7	4	6	13	54
Gwynedd Mon	2	10	0	0	0	1	13
Hackney	0	0	3	1	1	0	5
Halton and Warrington	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	4	2	6	8	6	2	28
Haringey	0	0	7	5	9	4	25
Harrow	0	0	1	0	1	3	5
Hartlepool	2	1	5	4	4	2	18
Havering	4	3	3	4	3	2	19
Hertfordshire	26	24	7	7	12	11	87
Hillingdon	0	6	6	7	4	13	36
Hounslow	0	0	0	0	3	2	5
Islington	0	0	0	1	0	4	5
Kensington and Chelsea	8	0	5	5	9	8	35
Kent	10	26	18	15	40	38	147
Kingston-upon-Hull	0	1	1	0	1	1	4
Kingston-upon-Thames	11	5	31		2	2	24
Kirklees	4	8	9	11	10	6	48
Knowsley	10	3	1	0	8	4	26
Lambeth	2	13	10	16	30	31	102
Lancashire	39	15	7	17	24	41	143
Leeds	2	0	4	2	1	6	15
Leicester City	15	10	12	5	4	15	61
Leicestershire	1	4	12	5	20	12	54
Lewisham	4	9	2	5	12	8	40
Lincolnshire	4	2	4	2	2		19
Liverpool	1	0	0	2	11	10	24
Luton	5	2	4	1	1	0	13
Manchester	41	2	18	12	18	13	104
Medway	2	5	8	5	26	12	58
Merthyr Tydfil	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Merton	8	3	2	0	13	15	41
Milton Keynes	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	0	6	5	1	1	2	15
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0	0	3	5	3	4	15

All parenting orders imposed (crime and ASB)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Overall total 2000-01 to 2005-06
Newham	3	12	1	11	1	7	35
Newport	2	0	3	3	3	1	12
Norfolk	13	28	28	15	14	14	112
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
North Somerset	0	0	1	1	4	5	11
North Tyneside	2	3	12	1	0	4	22
North Yorkshire	16	1	15	8	9	17	66
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Northumberland	0	1	2	2	6	4	15
Nottingham	4	5	4	5	7	4	29
Nottinghamshire	8	4	4	4	4	6	30
Oldham	6	0	0	0	2	0	8
Oxfordshire	3	0	1	1	1	1	7
Pembrokeshire	1	8	3	2	3	1	18
Peterborough	9	21	13	11	23	22	99
Plymouth	0	1	1	2	2	5	11
Powys[1]	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Reading and Wokingham	7	0	3	5	6	5	26
Redbridge	1	4	4	11	3	16	39
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Richmond-upon-Thames	0	9	4	1	3	5	22
Rochdale	4	2	9	3	2	10	30
Rotherham	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
Salford	6	1	11	2	11	18	49
Sandwell	1	15	5	5	5	8	39
Sefton	4	0	0	1	1	0	6
Sheffield	8	4	3	0	7	7	29
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	11	15	3	7	10	5	51
Slough	0	2		1	0	0	7
Solihull	4	3	0	3	0	3	13
Somerset	4	13	3	0	1	1	22
South Gloucestershire	1	0	0	0	2	1	4
South Tees	0	3	2	10	2	3	20
South Tyneside	20	15	11	12	16	17	91
Southend-on-Sea	5	2	1	6	12	11	37
Southwark	28	8	18	35	6	0	95
St. Helens	13	8	2	0	2	4	29
Staffordshire	2	5	3	2	2	8	22
Stockport	1	7	8	1	1	3	21
Stockton-on-Tees	1	33	4	1	4	5	48
Stoke-on-Trent	1	7	4	10	11	17	50
Suffolk	19	36	13	31	38	60	197
Sunderland	39	23	76	108	7	31	284
Surrey	3	1	2	2	17	6	31
Sutton	3	11	3	2	3	5	27
Swansea	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Swindon	0	0	4	0	9	3	16
Tameside	0	1	0	1	4	6	12
Thurrock	5	4	2	2	4	2	19
Torbay	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Tower Hamlets and City of London	0	0	6	8	8	3	25
Trafford	6	9	0	3	4	9	31
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	10	5	0	1	5	0	21
Walsall	2	1	5	3	2	2	16
Waltham Forest	2	2	8	3	7	2	24
Wandsworth	4	17	10	6	13	12	62
Warwickshire	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Wessex	117	96	120	62	101	106	602
West Berkshire	0	6	1	0	4	2	13

All parenting orders imposed (crime and ASB)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Overall total 2000-01 to 2005-06
West Sussex	2	3	34	25	15	37	116
Westminster	11	4	4	4	6	9	38
Wigan	20	78	2	2	7	20	129
Wiltshire	3	0	3	5	3	15	29
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	3	0	1	0	0	4
Wirral	2	1	14	3	2	2	24
Wolverhampton	6	11	9	4	3	8	41
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	8	6	7	11	30	23	85
Wrexham[2]	0	5	1	10	4	8	28
York	2	2	5	6	3	5	23
Flintshire and Wrexham[2]	200	0	0	0	2		
Mid Wales[1]	1	1	0	2	1	0	5
Total	883	936	967	883	1,198	1,292	6,159

[1] Mid Wales split into Powys YOT and Ceredigion YOT from April 2005
[2] Flintshire and Wrexham split into Flintshire YOT and Wrexham YOT from July 2001

Parliament Square: Demonstrations

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with police about demonstrations associated with Comic Relief and Red Nose Day within the exclusion zone around Parliament designated by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. [126516]

John Reid: The Metropolitan police are aware of one planned charity event within the designated area on 10 March.

Police

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of frontline duties he uses in reference to police work. [121760]

Mr. McNulty: Frontline policing is measured using the Frontline Policing Measure, which is based on the proportion of police officers engaged in frontline activities. It is calculated using a combination of role codes and activity analysis.

The Frontline Policing Measure is not a measure of visibility. It measures time spent carrying out core policing duties. Examples of roles considered as front line include: Burglary, CID, Firearms, Community Safety, Dogs, Drugs, Foot/Car/Beat Patrol, Hate Crime, Mounted Police, Special Branch, Marine, Air, Underwater, and Vice.

CID, Foot/Car/Beat Patrol and Traffic are also subject to activity analysis to determine more accurately the proportion of officer time spent on frontline activities within those roles. Examples of frontline activity include dealing with incidents, visible patrol, searches, dealing with informants, interviewing suspects and special operations.

Full details of the formula used to calculated the measure and complete lists of frontline roles and activities are contained in the "Guidance on Statutory Performance Indicators for Policing 2006/07", published by the Police Standards Unit and available at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-publications/publication/performance-and-measurement/SPI_Technical_Guidelines_204.pdf?view=Binary

Copies of this guidance will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely change in service provision resulting from the recent changes in the level of resources made available to some police forces. [126304]

Mr. McNulty: We have delivered a fair funding settlement for the police service in England and Wales in 2007-08. Each police authority will receive an increase in general grant of 3.6 per cent., higher than the 3.1 per cent. increase this year and above inflation. On top of general grant, each police authority will receive a range of other Government funding, including specific grants and capital provision.

Additionally, we have responded to the police service's call for greater funding flexibility to enable them to get the workforce mix right locally. We will expect the police to continue to make substantial and sustained efficiency savings.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have acting chief constables; and if he will make a statement. [127423]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* There are currently acting chief constables in Thames Valley, Lancashire, Durham, North Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Sussex.

The acting chief constable of Thames Valley has been appointed substantively and will take up the post on 1 April. The respective police authorities will hold interviews later this month to fill the posts in Lancashire and Durham, and interviews for the North Yorkshire post will be held in mid-April. The posts in Staffordshire and Sussex will be filled substantively later this year.

Police: Biometrics

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the Police Information Technology Organisation biometrics technology roadmap. [126430]

John Reid: Copies of the paper titled "Identification Roadmap 2005-20", subtitled "Biometrics Technology Roadmap for Person Identification within the Police Service" prepared by the Police Information Technology Organisation were placed in the Library in 2005. The Commons Library references are as follows: DEP-05/1184 and MGP05/1884.

Police: Compensation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in compensation to *(a)* convicted criminals and *(b)* unconvicted police suspects by (i) each police constabulary, (ii) the Prison Service for England and Wales and (iii) the Scottish Prison Service in each year between 1997 and 2006. [122383]

Mr. McNulty: Information is not held centrally on compensation payments by each police constabulary to convicted criminals or unconvicted police suspects in England and Wales and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Compensation payments made to prisoners in England and Wales are not broken down by the convicted or unconvicted status of the prisoner. Such a breakdown could again be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Scottish Prison Service is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were *(a)* suspended from duty and *(b)* fired in the last year for which figures are available. [121912]

Mr. McNulty: The collection and publication of the police complaints and discipline figures is the statutory responsibility of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Police: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there are in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [125451]

Mr. McNulty: Police officer strength data are not centrally collected at the borough level therefore figures for Eastbourne are not available. Police officer strength data are not centrally collected at the county level, therefore figures for East Sussex are not available. Police officer strength data are collected at the force Basic Command Unit (BCU) level, therefore data for Sussex Police BCUs are given in the following table.

Police officer strength (FTE)[1] by Sussex police basic command units as at 31 March 2006

Basic command unit	*Police force: Sussex Police officers*
Brighton and Hove	490
East Downs	378
Hastings and Rother	312
North Downs	389
West Downs	548
Gatwick	161
Central services	849
Total	3,127

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Employment

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* work part-time and *(b)* have secondary employment outside the police. [121910]

Mr. McNulty: The number of police officers who worked part-time is shown in the following table. The Home Office does not collect information on the number of police officers who have secondary employment outside of the police force. The decision to grant officers permission to have secondary employment is determined by the chief officer.

Part-time police officer strength by gender as at 31 March 2006

	Headcount[1] Female	*Male*
Avon and Somerset	137	11
Bedfordshire	47	3
Cambridgeshire	34	2
Cheshire	77	0
Cleveland	55	3
Cumbria	67	5
Derbyshire	85	9
Devon and Cornwall	180	19
Dorset	80	4
Durham	46	3
Dyfed-Powys	50	7
Essex	119	38
Gloucestershire	84	7
Greater Manchester	211	11
Gwent	48	4
Hampshire	151	9
Hertfordshire	102	8
Humberside	101	4
Kent	151	15
Lancashire	122	8
Leicestershire	63	10
Lincolnshire	28	4
London, City of	17	3
Merseyside	101	10
Metropolitan Police	956	122
Norfolk	76	4
Northamptonshire	66	15
Northumbria	126	8
North Wales	36	1
North Yorkshire	45	1
Nottinghamshire	96	8
South Wales	92	2
South Yorkshire	104	7
Staffordshire	106	3
Suffolk	69	7

Part-time police officer strength by gender as at 31 March 2006

	Headcount[1]	
	Female	Male
Surrey	70	6
Sussex[2]	177	n/a
Thames Valley	140	21
Warwickshire	31	0
West Mercia	84	4
West Midlands	339	25
West Yorkshire	224	16
Wiltshire	57	7

[1] Headcount figures relate to the total number of individuals employed by the police including those on long-term or other absence.
[2] Breakdown of data is not available for male officers in Sussex, the total headcount is 2,404 officers.

Police: Finance

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety in the Westminster Hall debate of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 277WH, on police funding, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Minister's letter sent to all police forces on 14 February. [127302]

Mr. McNulty: I have deposited a copy in the Library of the House.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which police forces in England and Wales he has received budget projections for the financial years up to and including 2010-11. [127304]

Mr. McNulty: Broad budget projections for future years have been received from Cleveland, Durham, Lincolnshire and Sussex Police Authorities.

Tentative overall projections for the police service in England and Wales as a whole have been received from the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities as part of their Comprehensive Spending Review briefing document "Sustainable Policing" published in November 2006.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Investigation Department officers are employed in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the West Midlands police authority area. [126024]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The latest available data for 31 March 2006 are given in the following table.

Police officers whose primary function[1] is Criminal Investigation Department, as at 31 March 2006 (FTE)[2]

31 March 2006	FTE
West Midlands	1,009
England and Wales	16,467

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations); are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.
[2] Full-time equivalent. These figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Retirement

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police forces conduct exit interviews for police officers leaving the force *(a)* at retirement and *(b)* before retirement. [122014]

John Reid: In November 2005, the Home Office issued guidance to police forces in England and Wales on National Exit Interview procedures. The guidance advises police forces to conduct exit interviews with police officers and police staff who have given notice of voluntary resignation or transfer to another force. Forces may also use the same procedure for officers retiring from the service. Police forces are asked to provide data to the Home Office as part of the Annual Data Requirement. The first set of national data will be available for analysis later this year.

Police: Terrorism

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England and Wales do not have their own anti-terrorist unit. [125791]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 March 2007]:* Each police force maintains its own special branch. Special branches play a key role in protecting the public and maintaining order. They acquire and develop intelligence to help protect the public from national security threats, especially terrorism and other extremist activity, and through this they also play a valuable role in promoting community safety and cohesion.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners aged *(a)* 60 to 64 and *(b)* over 65 years are serving sentences of (i) one to five, (ii) six to 10 and (iii) over 10 years. [126416]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The numbers of prisoners detained in prison establishments in England and Wales as referred to in the question are as in this table:

Sentence length

	Aged	
Years	60-64	65 and over
1-5	259	282
6-10	267	284
Over 10	363	386

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of inmates who, having absconded from custody, commit offences while they remain at large; and if he will make a statement. [126814]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 March 2007]*: The information requested is not held centrally.

Prisoners Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* sex and *(b)* other offenders who were released from prison before the end of the sentence handed down by the courts in the last 12 months who were considered a (i) high, (ii) medium and (iii) low risk by the (A) Police, (B) Probation and (C) Prison Service were. [123763]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This question cannot be answered without incurring disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were held at HMP Peterborough as at 31 January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [126213]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were 128 foreign national prisoners detained in Peterborough prison at the end of January 2007.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Prisoners: Wales

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women prisoners in the prison estate have home addresses in Wales, broken down by *(a)* category of offence and *(b)* length of sentence; and how many of these are on remand. [126937]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information for January 2007 is provided in the following table. Where no home address is listed for a prisoner the committal court is used as a proxy address.

The table shows the number of sentenced women in prison with a home address in Wales broken down by category of offence:

Offence	*Total*
Burglary	10
Drug offences	23
Frauds and forgery	1
Robbery	7
Sex offences	4
Theft and handling	19
Violence against the person	39
Other offences	33

The following table shows the number of sentenced women in prison with a home address in Wales broken down by sentence length:

Sentence length (months)	*Total*
<6	20
6 to 12	17
12	6
12 to 48	53
= 48	40

There are a further 42 women prisoners with a home address in Wales who are convicted but unsentenced or on remand.

Prisons: Drugs

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his predecessor's statement of 28 September 2004 on extra funding for drug treatment, what additional funding has been spent on extra facilities and counselling for prisoners with drug problems; and how many and what proportion of the prisoners requiring drug treatment received such treatment. [127240]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Further to the statement of 28 September 2004, the funding currently allocated for 2006-07 for delivery of the collaborative Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) is £12 million from the Department of Health and £5 million from NOMS.

The following table shows details of funding allocated for the totality of prison drug treatment for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07:

£ million

Intervention	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Clinical Services (maintenance-prescribing, detoxification)	11.3	11.3	23.3
CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice & Through-care services)	23.2	26.7	31.7
Drug Rehabilitation Programmes	13.8	19.4	19.4
YPSMS (Young Persons Substance-Misuse Service)	2.3	2.9	2.9
Total Drug Treatment	50.6	60.3	77.3

Data on the number of prisoners requiring drug treatment are not recorded in the way requested. Instead, prisons rely on epidemiological data which show that, on average, approximately 55 per cent. of prisoners report a serious drug problem prior to prison, with 80 per cent. reporting some prior misuse.

The following table shows the number of prisoners who engaged in drug treatment over the past two years (individual prisoners may engage in more than one form of treatment):

Intervention	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Clinical Services	53,903	53,323
CARATs	59,025	[1]76,588
Drug Rehabilitation Programmes	7,621	10,743

[1] Of which: 8,709 juvenile/YPSMS element.

Respect Task Force

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the total annual staffing costs are of his Department's Respect Task Force; [125792]

(2) what the cost was of setting up his Department's Respect Task Force. [125793]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 March 2007]:* The Respect Task Force was formed from existing staff and utilised existing Home Office accommodation. The only significant set up cost incurred was an external recruitment exercise to boost the staff complement costing £32,000.

During 2006-07 a total of £1.9 million is projected to have been spent on staffing costs for £36.5 full time equivalents. This includes specialist staff to work directly with frontline practitioners to support and advise them on the implementation of the Respect programme.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to centralise data collected by CCTV at the national Auto Number Plate Recognition Data Centre; and how much he has allocated to facilitate the integration of this data. [125643]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have provided £32.5 million of capital investment between the years 2005 and 2007 to enhance Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) infrastructure at a national, regional and local level. The Home Office is working with colleagues in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to use approximately £7 million of this funding to progress the development of a national infrastructure, specifically the National ANPR Data Centre (NADC—due to become fully operational during the 2007-08 financial year), and a Back Office Facility (BOF) system. The NADC will hold data collected by police-operated ANPR-linked to closed circuit television (CCTV) systems. The BOF will provide data storage and analysis tools for all police forces in England and Wales, enabling them to use ANPR in a more effective manner to tackle all levels of criminality.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many participants in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme there were in each of the last five years, broken down by country of origin. [117401]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 January 2007]:* The following table shows the number of work cards issued to foreign nationals under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme in calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006. Some of those individuals may not have travelled to the UK to take up their posts.

Number of work cards issued broken down by nationality of recipient

Nationality	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Afghanistan	1	0	0
Albania	146	66	46
Angola	0	0	1
Armenia	47	38	91
Azerbaijan	6	1	1
Bangladesh	7	9	0
Belarus	2,258	1,646	912
Benin	2	1	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	0
Brazil	0	0	16
Bulgaria	2,456	2,943	3,604
Burkino Faso	0	1	0
Burma (Myanmar)	3	3	0
Burundi	1	1	0
Cameroon	8	11	13
Cape Verde	1	0	0
China	677	0	0
Colombia	1	0	0
Comoros	0	0	1
Congo, Democratic Republic of (formerly Zaire)	0	1	0
Croatia	1	1	0
Egypt	2	0	1
Estonia	76	8	3
Ethiopia	2	1	0
Georgia	76	113	84
Ghana	10	20	31
Hungary	20	0	8
India	84	7	0
Ivory Coast	3	2	0
Kazakhstan	12	5	8
Kenya	8	7	4
Kyrgyzstan	6	5	1
Latvia	594	1	0
Lebanon	3	1	1
Lithuania	961	1	0
Macedonia	96	71	143
Malawi	1	0	1
Mali	0	0	1
Moldova	552	1,028	1,023
Mongolia	74	22	10
Morocco	1	0	0
Nigeria	2	0	1
Not known	817	40	43
Pakistan	5	1	0
Philippines	6	0	0
Poland	1,864	0	0
Romania	1,040	1,882	2,041
Russia	2,301	2,485	2,572
Rwanda	1	0	0
Senegal	1	1	0
Serbia	96	60	99
Sierra Leone	1	1	0
Slovakia	6	0	0
South Africa	1	0	0
Sudan	2	0	0
Syria	1	2	2
Tajikistan	3	1	1
Tanzania	14	9	7
Thailand	0	1	0
Tunisia	0	2	1
Turkey	7	14	1

Number of work cards issued broken down by nationality of recipient

Nationality	2004	2005	2006
Turkmenistan	5	24	15
Uganda	8	10	2
Ukraine	6,163	5,036	5,290
Yugoslavia	14	27	94
Zambia	2	0	2
Total	20,557	15,610	16,178

Note:
Data are only available from 2004 because that was when central recording of information commenced. The figures exclude extension work cards.

This information is provisional management information and may be subject to change. The data are not National Statistics.

Staffordshire Police

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the performance of Staffordshire police and its ability to tackle crime in Staffordshire. [122234]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has published formal reports relating to the assessment of performance of police forces in England and Wales and of Staffordshire police specifically. The most recent Police Performance Assessments were published in October 2006 covering annual data to March 2006. These assessments combine the robust evaluation of data collected by the force and through the British Crime Survey with the results from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) evidence-based qualitative inspections. Forces are assessed across seven policing areas to provide a thorough, balanced and realistic assessment of its ability to tackle crime and disorder.

In these assessments Staffordshire gained a 'good' or 'excellent' grading in each of the seven policing performance areas, as demonstrated in the following table

Performance area delivery direction

	Assessment
Reducing Crime	Good Stable
Investigating Crime	Excellent Stable
Promoting Safety	Good Stable
Providing Assistance	Excellent Stable
Citizen Focus	Excellent Improved
Resource Use	Excellent Stable
Local Policing	Good Stable

The overall delivery grading highlights the force's position in relation to the policing in other forces with similar socio-demographic conditions and indicates that Staffordshire is performing above its peer group. Further detail on these assessments can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-andmeasurement/performance-assessment/

Further details on HMIC's assessment of Staffordshire police's ability to tackle crime can be found at:

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/inspect_reports1/

Stop and Search: Terrorism

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many searches of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* vehicles were conducted under the Terrorism Act 2000 by each police force in England and Wales in the last 12 months. [124052]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 February 2007]:* Information on stops and searches under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 for 2004-05 (latest available) is given in the table.

2005-06 data will be available later this year.

Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1) and searches of pedestrians under section 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 by police force area, 2004-05

Number

Police force area	Stops and searches of vehicles and occupants under s44(1): vehicles only[1]	Stops and searches of vehicles and occupants under s44(1): occupants[1]	Stops and searches of vehicles and occupants under s44(1): Total	Stops and searches of pedestrians under s44(2)	Stops and searches of occupants [44(1)] and pedestrians [44(2)]	S44(1) and 44(2) total
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	1	3	4	2	5	6
Cheshire	0	1	1	0	1	1
Cleveland	0	4	4	3	7	7
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	13	13	4	17	17
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	124	1,424	1,548	2,193	3,617	3,741
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	235	621	856	899	1,520	1,755
Hampshire	35	1,413	1,448	315	1,728	1,763
Hertfordshire	0	14	14	0	14	14
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	114	114	81	195	195

Searches of vehicles and occupants under section 44(1) and searches of pedestrians under section 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 by police force area, 2004-05

Number

Police force area	*Stops and searches of vehicles and occupants under s44(1)*			*Stops and searches of pedestrians under s44(2)*	*Stops and searches of occupants [44(1)] and pedestrians [44(2)]*	*S44(1) and 44(2) total*
	vehicles only[1]	*occupants*[1]	*Total*			
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
London, City of	21	5,312	5,333	1,173	6,485	6,506
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan police	2,935	8,480	11,415	4,206	12,686	15,621
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	40	273	313	68	341	381
North Yorkshire	3	168	171	3	171	174
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	5	865	870	73	938	943
Sussex	59	1,469	1,528	1,120	2,589	2,648
Thames Valley	1	60	61	54	114	115
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	2	2	0	2	2
West Midlands	0	0	0	1	1	1
West Yorkshire	0	12	12	14	26	26
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	1	1	0	1	1
South Wales	231	872	1,103	732	1,604	1,835
England and Wales	3,690	21,121	24,811	10,941	32,062	35,752

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people claimed compensation for injuries arising from the terrorist attack in London of 7 July 2005; how many such claims have now been concluded by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA); how many interim payments have been made; in how many cases no compensation has yet been paid; and what the highest sum is so far awarded to an individual by the CICA. [127295]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) advise that, as at 9 March, they had received 573 applications in respect of the London bombings of 7 July 2005. 415 of these applications have been resolved (settled). Of the 158 cases outstanding, 31 have gone to review (the first tier in the two-tier appeals process) or to appeal (the second tier). Of the remaining 127 cases, 90 have had an interim payment, and three cases have been suspended because CICA are unable to contact the claimant. The highest sum awarded so far, in final settlement, was £152,050. Several interim awards have exceeded £100,000 and, once the final medical prognosis has become more certain and the final position regarding special expenses and loss of future earning capacity can be assessed, CICA expect that several final awards will exceed the highest award paid to date.

Tolls: Greater London

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the London congestion charge cameras are connected to the National Automated Number Plate Recognition database. [125640]

Mr. McNulty: Transport for London congestion charge cameras are not connected to the National Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Data Centre.

War Crimes

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1374W, on war crimes, what issues his Department is reviewing in connection with arrest warrants applications; [127389]

(2) what external advice his Department has sought in connection with the review of arrest warrant applications; [127404]

(3) whether his Department's review of arrest warrants will involve public consultation. [127405]

Joan Ryan: We have been considering the legal and practical issues relating to the issue of arrest warrants in international cases and in particular those relating to applications by private individuals. We have not yet completed our consideration of these issues. The Government do not have plans for a public consultation and have not sought external advice on the issues under consideration, but we will take full account of all representations received on this matter. Any proposals to change the legislation would be laid before Parliament in the normal way.

Written Questions

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply substantively to questions *(a)* 109531, *(b)* 109533, *(c)* 109534 and *(d)* 109535, tabled on 12 December 2006 by the hon. Member for New Forest East, on the investigation into the murder of Georgi Markov. [122368]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 February 2007]*: I replied to the hon. Gentleman on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2163W.

Young Offender Institutions: Mental Health

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of prisoners *(a)* in the young offender institution (YOI) estate and *(b)* in Feltham YOI in 2006 who had been diagnosed with a (i) mental illness and (ii) personality disorder. [126886]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally.

In the study "Mental Health Needs and Effectiveness of Provision for Young Offenders in Custody and in the Community" (Prof. Richard Harrington and Prof. Sue Bailey, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales 2005), 31 per cent. of young offenders were identified as having a mental health problem.

Young Offenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of young offenders in young offender institutions who are held more than 50 miles from their home; and if he will make a statement. [126091]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As of January 2007, there were 2,647 young offenders in young offender institutions who were held more than 50 miles from their home.

Where no home address is listed for a young offender the committal court is used as a proxy address.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were working for youth offending teams at each June year-end since June 2001 in each youth offending team area; and if he will make a statement. [126108]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested for 2004-05 onwards is set out in the following table. Data on YOT staff numbers are collected by the Youth Justice Board. Prior to 2004-05 YOT staff numbers were collected on a full-time equivalent basis and the data are not therefore directly comparable.

YOT staff

Headcount

	Total		
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	33	74	81
Barnet	26	41	70
Barnsley	85	99	107
Bath and North East Somerset	58	23	60
Bedfordshire	94	86	91
Bexley	31	36	45
Birmingham	630	837	897
Blackburn with Darwen	73	72	70
Blackpool	109	166	119
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	34	51	110
Bolton	49	101	101
Bournemouth and Poole	91	112	94
Bracknell Forest	35	37	36
Bradford	92	209	197
Brent	35	72	89
Bridgend	56	65	57
Brighton and Hove	39	88	98
Bristol	145	179	271
Bromley	60	54	61
Buckinghamshire	106	110	98
Bury	93	74	74
Calderdale	133	116	108
Cambridgeshire	59	40	48
Camden	57	46	51
Cardiff	172	175	153
Carmarthenshire	29	63	77
Ceredigion	—	27	48
Cheshire	172	129	158
Conwy and Denbighshire	80	68	63
Cornwall	119	112	131
Coventry	166	150	186
Croydon	167	104	119
Cumbria	129	131	176
Darlington	144	79	78
Derby	233	261	216
Derbyshire	145	178	178
Devon	164	209	240
Doncaster	110	85	88
Dorset	41	46	46
Dudley	119	116	118

YOT staff

	Headcount		
	2004-05	Total 2005-06	2006-07
Durham	191	189	183
Ealing	51	48	81
East Riding of Yorkshire	70	73	69
East Sussex	98	107	126
Enfield	85	43	70
Essex	89	80	220
Flintshire	23	63	60
Gateshead	141	118	113
Gloucestershire	118	90	133
Greenwich	38	37	45
Gwynedd Mon	65	25	46
Hackney	48	47	90
Halton and Warrington	84	65	63
Hammersmith and Fulham	55	68	86
Haringey	117	158	128
Harrow	98	79	89
Hartlepool	57	67	59
Havering	65	50	86
Hertfordshire	92	104	106
Hillingdon	55	64	93
Hounslow	85	79	78
Islington	107	59	41
Kensington and Chelsea	43	56	54
Kent	323	446	446
Kingston-upon-Hull	147	89	86
Kingston-upon-Thames	13	26	62
Kirklees	151	217	220
Knowsley	79	184	155
Lambeth	149	52	119
Lancashire	447	290	201
Leeds	128	132	284
Leicester City	228	251	233
Leicestershire	71	70	79
Lewisham	51	122	117
Lincolnshire	169	170	168
Liverpool	132	159	163
Luton	74	83	80
Manchester	97	216	211
Medway	69	69	72
Merthyr Tydfil	22	21	20
Merton	66	57	58
Mid Wales	26	0	0
Milton Keynes	43	78	87
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	90	81	77
Neath Port Talbot	55	59	67
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	157	132	149
Newham	74	109	166
Newport	54	63	49
Norfolk	165	145	153
North East Lincolnshire	48	92	83
North Lincolnshire	90	97	90
North Somerset	65	76	76
North Tyneside	59	140	58
North Yorkshire	202	161	167
Northamptonshire	67	166	132
Northumberland	120	76	110
Nottingham	93	279	292
Nottinghamshire	175	219	273
Oldham	153	102	98

YOT staff

	Headcount		
	2004-05	Total 2005-06	2006-07
Oxfordshire	197	189	186
Pembrokeshire	58	46	52
Peterborough	141	134	147
Plymouth	98	102	117
Powys	—	38	42
Reading and Wokingham	80	66	62
Redbridge	44	45	49
Rhondda Cynon Taff	88	60	95
Richmond-upon-Thames	95	149	92
Rochdale	116	116	112
Rotherham	77	93	90
Salford	129	112	162
Sandwell	48	83	92
Sefton	103	107	114
Sheffield	164	100	100
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	124	60	129
Slough	57	57	66
Solihull	74	56	84
Somerset	160	160	191
South Gloucestershire	58	58	54
South Tees	68	120	130
South Tyneside	121	142	142
Southend-on-Sea	22	127	132
Southwark	91	221	227
St. Helens	125	110	110
Staffordshire	164	120	159
Stockport	41	82	80
Stockton-on-Tees	58	65	65
Stoke-on-Trent	140	193	230
Suffolk	217	225	267
Sunderland	93	239	288
Surrey	204	193	195
Sutton	20	125	142
Swansea	58	60	122
Swindon	120	94	86
Tameside	40	133	72
Thurrock	21	50	51
Torbay	54	56	50
Tower Hamlets and City of London	70	69	88
Trafford	52	69	110
Vale of Glamorgan	69	93	69
Wakefield	102	135	139
Walsall	56	72	74
Waltham Forest	29	69	71
Wandsworth	79	97	115
Warwickshire	100	123	118
Wessex	497	449	457
West Berkshire	56	56	66
West Sussex	208	189	249
Westminster	38	45	63
Wigan	172	255	190
Wiltshire	205	238	203
Windsor and Maidenhead	15	31	46
Wirral	137	127	147
Wolverhampton	107	103	68
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	205	268	235
Wrexham	19	47	47

YOT staff

	2004-05	Total 2005-06	Headcount 2006-07
York	33	73	89
Total	16,057	18,013	19,356

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* volunteers, *(b)* (i) full-time and (ii) part-time practitioners, *(c)* sessional staff, *(d)* administrative staff, *(e)* managers, *(f)* students/trainees and *(g)* others were working for youth offending teams at each June year-end since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [126109]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested for 2004-05 onwards is set out in the following table.

The YJB collect data on YOT staffing numbers. Prior to 2004-05, YOT staff numbers were collected on a full-time equivalent basis and are not therefore directly comparable.

YOT staff

	2004-05	2005-06	Headcount 2006-07
Managers Strategic	254	257	273
Managers Operational	693	748	779
Senior Practitioner (full-time)	580	506	551
Senior Practitioner (part-time)	82	54	49
Practitioner (full-time)	4,469	4,531	4,789
Practitioner (part-time)	750	810	908
Admin	1,577	1,555	1,592
Sessional	1,457	1,823	1,810
Student	172	268	198
Volunteer	6,023	7,461	8,407
Total	16,057	18,013	19,356

NORTHERN IRELAND

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been convicted of crimes in which alcohol has been a contributory factor in each of the last three years. [119340]

Mr. Hanson: Background information in relation to the commission of an offence is not included in court prosecution and conviction data. Conviction statistics relating to crimes in which alcohol has been a contributory factor are thus not available.

Domestic Violence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been convicted of assault in which the victim was *(a)* a female partner, *(b)* a male partner and *(c)* a child of the convicted person in each of the last three years. [119347]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland court proceedings and sentencing data do not currently record the relationship between those who have been convicted of assault and their victims. I anticipate that this information will become available with the development of the Causeway information system.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were rendered homeless in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years as a result of domestic violence. [128117]

Mr. Hanson: The number of applicants who specified domestic violence as a reason for presenting as homeless and the number accepted for this reason is shown in the following table.

	Presented	Awarded
2003-04	684	606
2004-05	727	611
2005-06	798	688
To February 2007	603	546

Northern Ireland Executive: Translation Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on translation services by each Northern Ireland Government Department, and its associated agencies, in each of the last six years for which figures are available. [127146]

Mr. Hain: Details of translation costs for each Northern Ireland Government Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each of the last four years are provided in the following table.

Breakdown of translations, 2002-03 to 2005-06

£

Department	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
NIO	123,150.11	115,001.83	257,878.70	527,454.57
DE	98,993.67	119,929.38	37,416.37	37,827.10
DARD	981.49	1,305.36	1,370.98	5,076.85
DEL	4,726.86	11,039.00	12,557.82	232,064.00
DETI	987.68	3,697.68	3,603.36	7,510.19
DFP	177.17	1,898.43	1,938.86	1,498.03
DHSSPS	95,602.11	31,466.55	13,515.01	27,262.66
DOE	296.60	74.95	724.02	16,330.78
DRD	[1]—	539.04	3,798.99	546.04
DSD	18,183.86	53,913.74	112,612.59	309,871.19
OFMDFM	43,176.87	22,505.61	1,695.36	24,081.60
DCAL	39,718.86	53,652.58	37,403.23	25,183.92
Total	426,013.18	415,024.17	484,535.29	1,214,706.93

[1] Nil return.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what revenue was generated by police speed camera operations in each Police Service of Northern Ireland district command unit area in each of the last six years. [125015]

Paul Goggins: The following table outlines the revenue generated each year by the Safety Camera Scheme since its introduction in July 2003. The figures

have been broken down by district command unit as requested. Revenue from all fixed penalty notices and conditional offers is paid to the Court Service. However, there is a mechanism to 'Cost Recover' funds generated by the scheme to cover its running costs. Any surplus funds then go to Treasury along with all the other fines received from penalty notices issued outside of the scheme.

DCU area	2003	2004	2005	2006	£ Total
Antrim DCU	0	540	0	60	600
Armagh DCU	4,980	2,940	3,180	10,500	21,600
Ballymena DCU	10,140	7,740	3,960	3,960	25,800
Ballymoney DCU	600	1,140	1,080	12,420	15,240
Banbridge DCU	39,300	55,920	99,480	67,320	262,020
Belfast East DCU	70,620	101,220	52,920	22,980	247,740
Belfast North DCU	24,360	61,740	42,900	32,280	161,280
Belfast South DCU	6,120	15,180	18,900	14,460	54,660
Belfast West DCU	5,520	17,100	12,180	8,160	42,960
Carrickfergus DCU	5,400	2,940	540	1,860	10,740
Castlereagh DCU	155,880	171,360	111,360	139,200	577,800
Coleraine DCU	900	3,540	5,460	5,520	15,420
Cookstown DCU	420	2,880	9,180	10,740	23,220
Craigavon DCU	1,140	8,640	5,460	23,760	39,000
Down DCU	1,560	14,280	17,040	3,360	36,240
Dungannon DCU	5,580	11,460	20,460	42,420	79,920
Fermanagh DCU	5,640	2,520	6,660	420	15,240
Foyle DCU	7,560	29,400	30,540	14,040	81,540
Lame DCU	0	0	0	1,920	1,920
Limavady DCU	540	840	7,260	5,280	13,920
Lisburn DCU	120	120	780	0	1,020
Magherafelt DCU	4,020	11,040	17,700	10,320	43,080
Moyle DCU	2,100	2,460	540	360	5,460
Newry and Mourne DCU	16,620	79,620	62,280	69,540	228,060
Newtownabbey DCU	360	300	0	60	720
Newtownards DCU	6,180	7,140	9,480	8,640	31,440
North Down DCU	18,060	83,820	51,720	55,560	209,160
Omagh DCU	5,580	18,240	19,140	8,880	51,840
Strabane DCU	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	540	0	0	180	720
Total	399,840	714,120	610,200	574,200	2,298,360

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 March 2007

WALES

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128065]

Mr. Hain: None.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Roof Terrace

Anne Main: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when he expects the roof terrace to re-open for use of hon. Members' staff; and if he will make a statement. [127523]

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how long the roof terrace has been closed to hon. Members; what work has been carried out; and when the roof terrace will be re-opened. [128087]

Nick Harvey: The roof terrace was closed, along with other roof areas in the parliamentary estate, on 28 September 2006 when a detailed health and safety audit indicated that there were significant risks when assessed under modern regulations. Since then priority has been given to providing safe access to those areas of the roofs where access is required to maintain the structure of the buildings. Work on the roof terrace has been limited to providing temporary fencing to prevent access to areas where people can and have put themselves at risk.

This matter is under active consideration by the Speaker.

TRANSPORT

A5

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for *(a)* the delay to 2015-16 from 2010 of the completion of the A5 to M1 link and *(b)* the change in the expected cost of the link between September 2005 and February 2007. [127914]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is as follows:

(a) The East of England Regional Assembly's advice accepted by the Secretary of State on the regional funding allocation was for the start of construction of the A5-M1 link to be delayed from 2008-09 to 2013-14. However, I have asked the Highways Agency to continue to progress the orders on a timetable that would keep open the possibilities of building M1 J11a early and accelerating the whole of the link road, should the necessary resources become available at an earlier stage.

(b) The principal reasons for the change in the expected cost of the link between September 2005, based on the outline design, and February 2007, based on the preferred route are additional inflation as a result of the later proposed construction date, and changes resulting from the choice of the northern route as the preferred route. Also, the current estimate has taken into account further work by the contractor on survey, design and buildability.

Air Traffic: Forecasts

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial contribution his Department made to the report by Oxford Economic Forecasting on the Economic Contribution of the Aviation Industry in the UK. [127439]

Gillian Merron: The Department's contribution was £23,500 (inclusive of VAT). The majority of the project was funded by aviation and other industry representatives.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in relation to the survey undertaken by Oxford Economic Forecasting report quoted at paragraphs 4.14 and 4.15 of his Future of Air Transport Progress report, how many questionnaires were sent out; and what proportion were returned. [127440]

Gillian Merron: Questionnaires were sent out to around 6,000 companies and 165 replies were received. Further detail can be obtained from the Oxford Economic Forecasting report, Annexe A.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish details of the air traffic forecasts on which his Future of Air Transport Progress Report was based; and if he will make a statement. [127449]

Gillian Merron: The Future of Air Transport Progress Report states that a technical note on the air traffic forecasting methods and results outlined in the Progress Report will be published in 2007.

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the results have been of the Buildings Research Establishment's testing for tricresyl phosphate and other organophosphates in air sampling research carried out on UK commercial aircraft; and what plans he has for further air sampling research. [127945]

Gillian Merron: The Buildings Research Establishment report referred to was prepared in October 2003 for the Department of Health as part of the Aviation Health Working Group. It described a study to monitor cabin air quality aboard older aircraft types utilised in high volume short haul operations, as recommended by the House of Lords report on Air Travel and Health. The report found no obvious difference in the cabin environment between older types of aircraft and newer types and that overall,

levels of measured air pollutants were always below any recommended health limits.

The report can be found on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/hci/hacc/bre/.

The Aviation Health Working Group will be commissioning a separate study of cabin air later in the year.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the safety implications of the recent instructions by DHL Air Ltd (instruction No. INFO 010/07) advising pilots that low concentrations of fumes *(a)* after engine start, *(b)* during taxi and *(c)* after take-off are normal, do not need to be reported and do not warrant use of emergency oxygen; and if he will make a statement. [127960]

Gillian Merron: The DHL instruction referred to has been assessed by a CAA flight operations inspector as part of the full range of company instructions relating to smoke, fumes and air contamination. The instruction was promulgated as follow up information additional to the relevant normal, abnormal and emergency procedures. These include company guidance for the use of oxygen and masks. The inspector found the instruction acceptable in that context and the operator has taken steps to ensure in training sessions that it must not be interpreted as a dilution of the company's safety policy with regard to the reporting of incidents of this type.

Airports

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many international destinations were served by *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted airports in the last year for which figures are available. [127268]

Gillian Merron: The data requested can be found in Annex A of the "Air Transport White Paper Progress Report 2006" on the Department for Transport's website: www.dft.gov.uk.

Airports: Passengers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers on international flights went through *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted airports in the most recent year for which figures are available. [127269]

Gillian Merron: Total passengers at an airport can be defined as all terminal and transit passengers. Terminal passengers include all terminating and transferring (interlining/connecting) passengers.

The number of terminal passengers on international flights is published in table 3 of "CAA Passenger Survey Report 2005".

The number of transit passengers is not available for international flights. Total transit passengers, both domestic and international, are published in table 9 of "CAA Airport Statistics 2005", CAA website: www.caa.co.uk.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of passengers on international flights transferred or transited at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted airports in the most recent year for which figures are available. [127270]

Gillian Merron: The number of transfer passengers on international flights is published as "connect" passengers in table 3 of "CAA Passenger Survey Report 2005".

The number of transit passengers is not available for international flights. CAA website: www.caa.co.uk .

Airports: Security

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has carried out any survey of the public's understanding of the new security regulations regarding the transport of liquids on aircraft. [123627]

Gillian Merron: It is not currently DfT policy to conduct passenger surveys in relation to any security functions deployed at airports. However, after the events of the 10 August 2006, information informing passengers of the restrictions pertaining to liquids being taken through security control posts was disseminated through the national press and media, the Department for Transport website, and the aviation and travel industry.

Aviation: Air Pollution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will call for an emissions trading scheme to be included in the EU-US aviation negotiations currently taking place. [127203]

Gillian Merron: The Government are taking forward their objective to include aviation in the European emissions trading scheme through negotiations on a draft directive recently produced by the European Commission.

Aviation: Safety

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether UK airline pilots are required to report all cases of smoke or fumes in the aircraft technical log. [127366]

Gillian Merron: The European Aviation Safety Agency requirements concerning the aircraft technical log include the recording of information about each flight necessary to ensure continued flight safety. For commercial air transport flights, defects and malfunctions that affect the safe operation of the aircraft or the safety of its occupants, that are known to the commander of the aircraft, are required to be recorded in the technical log, or an alternative cabin defect log that is regarded as part of the technical log. Any occurrence of smoke or fumes in the cabin or flight deck that was considered to threaten the safety of aircraft or occupants would be required to be reported in the Technical log or cabin defect log.

Aviation: USA

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what scope there is for *(a)* reciprocity and *(b)* access to cabotage in the current aviation negotiations with the US air authorities. [126333]

Gillian Merron: Discussions have been taking place between the EU and the United States since 2003 on a comprehensive aviation treaty. Following the latest round of negotiations, a revised draft of a possible first stage agreement will be discussed at the EU Council of Transport Ministers on 22 March. The draft agreement as it stands provides a range of traffic and other rights to the airlines of both sides. A number of these would be granted on a reciprocal basis, though some limited rights would be granted to EU carriers only during the first stage. It does not include cabotage rights for the airlines of either side during the first stage.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the cost of flights between the UK and the US likely to arise from the draft Open Skies aviation agreement reached between the EU and the US; and if he will make a statement. [126897]

Gillian Merron: The level of air fares is a commercial matter for the airlines concerned. However, certain air fares from London Heathrow to the US are currently higher than those from equivalent hubs in other European countries which already have an open skies relationship with the US.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the level of *(a)* flights, *(b)* passengers, *(c)* noise pollution, *(d)* carbon emissions and *(e)* global warming of the draft Open Skies aviation agreement reached between the EU and the US; and if he will make a statement. [126898]

Gillian Merron: The Government considers that the best way to tackle the environmental impacts of aviation is through the programme of measures it is pursuing including the addition of aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme, promoting technological developments and working closely with operators to make improvements through operational changes.

This is a strategic environmental approach which is not dependent on negotiations on individual bilateral air service agreements.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the draft Open Skies aviation agreement reached between the EU and the US on the ability of the UK and EU to develop legislation on *(a)* air pollution, *(b)* greenhouse gas emissions and *(c)* noise pollution; and if he will make a statement. [126900]

Gillian Merron: The proposed agreement does not affect the existing ability of the UK or the EU to take additional legislative measures to deal with the impact of aviation on the environment.

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps his Department has taken to promote the Blue Badge map website; [118772]

(2) whether he plans to expand the geographical coverage of the Blue Badge map website; [118773]

(3) how much was spent administering the Blue Badge map website in the last five months. [118774]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

DWP is responsible for the Disabled People and Carers information within the Directory website.

A range of marketing activity has been conducted to promote the new service. For example, several disability-related media outlets were approached to highlight the mapping facility and articles have appeared in leading disability publications and on a number of websites that are visited by disabled people. The facility has also been promoted at events and exhibitions, as well as through promotional leaflets and online marketing activities.

In addition, the Disabled People and Carers franchise of the Directgov website, which is hosted by the Office for Disability Issues, a unit within DWP set up to co-ordinate work on disability across Government. It contacted over 500 organisations and individuals, including local authorities, charities and organisations with an interest in disability, to draw their attention to the facility. They were encouraged to place links to the mapping facility on their own websites and to promote the service to other interested parties.

The mapping facility has been purchased under licence initially for one year and currently covers 64 towns and cities across the UK. We are currently considering whether to renew the contract which would potentially expand its geographical coverage.

The cost of administering the service cannot be disaggregated from the overall costs of maintaining and promoting the Disabled People and Carers section of the Directgov website.

Departments: Air Pollution

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate has been made of the carbon footprint of his Department. [124520]

Gillian Merron: The 2005-06 estimated carbon footprint for the Department is 50,116,258 kg/CO_2. This figure includes all building emissions and travel for the Department, other than the amounts for air and rail travel for the seven DfT agencies, which are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

There is a cross-Government target for the central Government office estate to be carbon neutral by 2012, which will require Departments to offset emissions every year from 2012 in order to achieve a balance of zero net carbon emissions.

All central Government official and ministerial air travel has been captured under offsetting schemes since April 2006, and to provide the figures for what the levels of emissions were last year from departmental air

travel, and the anticipated cost of offsetting those emissions through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF).

Departments: Regeneration

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of his Department's spending was devoted to *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural regeneration and redevelopment in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [125891]

Gillian Merron: The proportion of the Department's spending on urban and rural regeneration and redevelopment is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles were travelled by his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials on Government business by (i) air, (ii) rail and (iii) road in 2006. [124519]

Gillian Merron: It is not currently possible to separate ministerial mileage from that incurred by officials. The figures for Ministers and officials for the financial year 2005-06 are as follows: air travel 5,641,508 miles, rail travel 3,328,585 miles, road travel 3,786,021 miles. This excludes DSA, DVLA, GCDA, HA, VGA and VOSA, who do not hold the information in the format requested.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Heathrow Airport: Night Flying

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of night flights to and from Heathrow airport on the London economy; and if he will make a statement. [126296]

Gillian Merron: In making its decision about the restrictions to apply to night flying at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports from October 2006 to October 2012, the Government took account of the combined effects on the national economy of night flights at these airports. There has been no separate specific consideration of the impact of night flying at Heathrow on the London economy.

A regulatory impact assessment was published on 6 June 2006, when the Secretary of State announced the restrictions on night flying to apply at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports from October 2006. It makes a broad statement on the economic importance of night flying at the designated airports and discusses the economic evidence presented by consultees in response to the stage two consultation on the proposed restrictions. This document is on the internet at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/nighthgs/

Heathrow Airport: Passengers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the international routes served by Heathrow airport depend for their commercial viability on transfer or transit passengers; and for which routes this is the case. [127271]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

London Underground

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total capital expenditure on London Underground (LU) was in each year since 1990 during which his Department had responsibility for LU, broken down by line. [124237]

Gillian Merron: Responsibility for London Underground passed to Transport for London and the Mayor of London on 15 July 2003. Performance since then has been an operational matter for London Underground who are best placed to answer direct. London Underground does not record investment broken down by lines. However the total figures to 2002-03 are shown in the following table. In April 2000, London Underground adopted new accounting treatment for its investment expenditure which removed the category 'investment renewals': the majority of this expenditure was reclassified as capital, although some (£90 million) became resource expenditure. Therefore the figures before and after April 2000 are not directly comparable and are presented in two separate tables with the years 1990-91 to 1999-2000 on one consistent basis and those for a restated 1999-2000 to 2005-06 are on another. It is normal accounting practice when a change in accounting treatment occurs to restate the previous year's figures on the same basis in the accounts, so that a true comparison can be made

Investment expenditure

£ million (outturn prices)

	1990-91	*1991-92*	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*
Capital	327	225	414	320	319	210	173	133	171	134
Renewals	87	70	218	159	184	275	198	191	244	208
Total core business	414	295	632	479	503	485	371	324	415	342
Jubilee line extension	40	63	68	261	396	587	660	476	283	655
CrossRail	5	12	29	45	30	16	4	—	—	—
Total investment	459	370	729	785	929	1,088	1,035	800	698	997

	Investment expenditure			
			£ million (outturn prices)	
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Capital	252	293	418	402
Total core business	252	293	418	402
Jubilee line extension	655	—	—	—
CrossRail	—	—	—	—
Total investment	907	293	418	402

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* track and *(b)* signal failures there were on the London Underground (LU) in each year since 1990 during which his Department had responsibility for LU, broken down by line. [124244]

Gillian Merron: Responsibility for London Underground passed to Transport for London and the Mayor of London on 15 July 2003. Performance since then has been an operational matter for London Underground who are best placed to answer direct. Information on the years prior to 1996 could be provided only at disproportionate time and cost. The numbers of track and signal failures that caused more than a two minute delay for the period 1996-97 to 2002-03 are:

	Signals						
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Bakerloo	264	292	249	355	64	131	143
Central	644	880	308	335	274	554	495
District	303	269	278	394	246	500	454
East London[1]					32	52	49
Jubilee	79	110	197	338	204	354	257
Circle and Hammersmith	129	131	125	238	9	286	203
Metropolitan	209	266	194	290	267	374	353
Northern	298	323	216	317	188	357	551
Piccadilly	261	241	213	202	184	161	161
Victoria	115	166	149	131	100	308	382
Waterloo and City[2]		16	27	29	18	22	23
Total signals	2,3021	2,302	1,929	2,600	1,746	3,099	3,071

	Track						
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Bakerloo	193	201	176	168	96	125	76
Central	203	92	65	50	82	103	63
District	74	51	69	83	162	94	143
East London[1]					8	8	11
Jubilee	45	38	77	146	43	77	95
Circle and Hammersmith	75	61	57	62	51	84	81
Metropolitan	105	73	83	82	100	83	74
Northern	141	165	109	105	95	115	171
Piccadilly	92	110	109	135	129	89	105
Victoria	54	80	66	66	25	41	36
Waterloo and City[2]					5	2	8
Total track	982	982	811	897	804	821	863

[1] East London Line was included with Jubilee line until 1999-2000. [2] Waterloo and City Line included with Central Line until 1999-2000.

M6: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2261W, on the M6: Repairs and Maintenance, if he will place a copy of the internal review document of safety options in the Library. [128509]

Dr. Ladyman: I have arranged for copies of the internal review document to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were tested at the Salisbury Vehicle Testing Station in each month of 2006, broken down by class of vehicle; and how many vehicles *(a)* passed and *(b)* failed. [127548]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Parking

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many workplace parking schemes were established in each of the last 10 years. [125975]

Gillian Merron: We do not collect or hold information centrally on the number and location of workplace parking schemes or workplace travel plans in the UK. Any information that is available would be

held by local authorities. Examples of good practice can be found in the Department's publications 'Making Travel Plans Work' and 'A Travel Plan Resource Pack for Employers'.

Parking: Regulation

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what restrictions apply to the parking of *(a)* large vans and *(b)* caravans (i) in residential streets and (ii) on private driveways. [125560]

Gillian Merron: The only national restrictions that apply to the parking of large vans or caravans in residential streets are that caravan lamps must be fully lit and not obscured when caravans are parked at night.

Parking control is generally a local issue and local authorities may make a Traffic Regulation Order regulating, restricting or prohibiting the on-street parking of different classes of vehicle, including caravans.

Operators of goods vehicles weighing over 3.5 tonnes are required to have an operator's license, the conditions of which may require vehicles to be kept off the road when not in use.

There are no national restrictions that apply to the parking of large vans or caravans on private driveways.

Public Service Vehicles: Regulation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equipment, Use and Certification) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125619]

Gillian Merron: There were two sets of amendments to the Public Service Vehicles (Conditions of Fitness, Equipment, Use and Certification) Regulations in 2002. The first, SI 2002 No. 335, was to bring the regulations into alignment with the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations SI 2000 No. 1970, and the second, SI 2002 No. 489 changed the fees for inspections. There were no costs associated with the former, as the amendments did not introduce new requirements in addition to SI 2000 No. 1970. A Regulatory Impact Assessment for SI 2000 No. 1970 was placed in the House Library when these regulations were made.

The fees for inspections of large passenger vehicles are normally reviewed annually, and the costs to business arising from SI 2002 No. 489 coming into force until the next fee increase (August 2003) amounted to £39,496.

The Department for Transport is committed to better regulation. We aim to introduce new regulation only where absolutely necessary, and to simplify existing regulation to reduce burdens.

Public Transport: Contracts

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* quality contracts and *(b)* quality partnerships were established in each of the last five years. [125974]

Gillian Merron: Since the coming into force of the Transport Act 2000, quality contracts provisions have not been used. No statutory partnership schemes are currently in force, however in January 2007 a statutory quality partnership scheme for north Sheffield was formally signed by Sheffield city council and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority and Executive. This will come into effect in July 2007.

Voluntary partnerships already exist widely across the country.

The Government's proposals, set out in 'Putting Passengers First' in December 2006, aim to make quality contracts a more realistic option and to increase the scope of quality partnership schemes.

Railways: Airports

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new *(a)* rail and *(b)* light rail links to airports have been built since 1997. [125976]

Gillian Merron: Heathrow Express, a direct rail service from London Paddington to Heathrow airport, was opened in 1998. The Docklands Light Railway was extended in 2005 to provide access to London City airport. Also in 2005, the Welsh Assembly Government funded the reopening of the Vale of Glamorgan line for passenger trains in order to serve Cardiff International airport (previously the line had been suitable for freight transport only).

Railways: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding is available to assist communities in opening and running branch railways. [126181]

Mr. Tom Harris: There is no specific fund for reopening branch lines, but such reopenings are eligible for funding through the Local Transport Plan process, the Transport Innovation Fund and the Communities Fund. The Government's community rail development strategy encourages local stakeholders to work together to support existing lines and services and the same principles can apply to reopenings.

Railways: Franchises

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2262W, on railways: franchises, what the timetable is for the decision to be made on extending c2c's franchise beyond 2011. [128189]

Mr. Tom Harris: We would expect to complete this review within the next two years.

Shipping

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the availability of *(a)* British merchant seafarers and *(b)* British flagged merchant vessels to meet foreseeable strategic defence needs. [127929]

Dr. Ladyman: In 2004 the Department for Transport, jointly with Ministry of Defence, commissioned the London Metropolitan University to produce a quarterly assessment of the number of UK seafarers up to and including 2006. The Department for Transport also collate an assessment of militarily useful UK registered merchant shipping on a regular basis using an evaluation criterion provided by the MOD.

Travel: Business

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will promote the use of internet conferencing to businesses as an alternative to travel. [126629]

Gillian Merron: The Department encourages employers to develop workplace travel plans, which may include teleconferencing and teleworking, to reduce car use for the commute and during the course of work. We recognise the benefits of these and also the potential of internet conferencing in reducing the need to travel.

On 22 February 2007, we launched the National Business Travel Network to promote and support increased take-up of travel plans, particularly by the business community. Part of the work of this network is to encourage greater use of teleconferencing and teleworking. The network has so far been joined by 30 national companies as well as business groups and trade associations.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* internal and *(b)* international same-day return flights made by businesses in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [126630]

Gillian Merron: The number of international day visits by UK residents for business purposes in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

The information requested is not available for internal visits. Information is available from the CAA Passenger Survey on domestic air travel but this survey is only carried out at a selected number of UK airports each year. Day visits abroad by UK residents for business purposes, 2001-05

	Day visits (thousand)
2001	607
2002	653
2003	604
2004	651
2005	630

Source:
International Passenger Survey

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Northern Ireland (Offences) Bill

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1944W, on the Northern Ireland (Offences) Bill, when the Attorney-General last met the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to discuss the subject of On the Runs. [128082]

The Solicitor-General: The answer referred to is at 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 884W.

The Attorney-General last spoke with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to discuss "On the Runs" in October 2006.

Trooper Williams

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Solicitor-General what the cost was of the *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* defence of Trooper Williams in the High Court in April 2005. [128081]

The Solicitor-General: Although there were no criminal hearings before the High Court in this case, I assume the reference to the High Court is to the abuse of process argument by the defence which was heard at the Royal Courts of Justice before Mrs. Justice Hallett on 21 to 23 February 2005. That defence application was dismissed. The CPS then considered the matter and at a hearing in April 2005 before the Crown court offered no evidence.

The total CPS costs in this case were £28,195.24. This breaks down as follows:

Leading Counsel, total fees (VAT inclusive)—£13,218.75;

Junior Counsel, total fees (VAT inclusive)—£12,613.62;

and a transcript of the application to dismiss abuse of process (VAT inclusive)—£2,362.87.

No witnesses were called and so no witness costs were incurred. The aforementioned figure does not include staff or running costs, which are attributable to the operation of the CPS as a whole and cannot be assessed on an individual case basis.

The costs incurred by the defence are not recorded by my Department.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages Board

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the future of the Agricultural Wages Board. [125966]

Barry Gardiner: The Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales was reviewed in 1999-2000. As a non-departmental public body it is now subject to the new, light touch periodic business reviews. There are no plans for a review at present.

Agricultural Wages Board: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the Agricultural Wages Board did not receive an exemption from the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations. [126718]

Barry Gardiner: The Government did consider a specific exemption from the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations for the agricultural minimum wage. However, we did not consider that the case made by the Agricultural Wages Board provided the necessary

evidence to objectively justify such an exemption, in the context of a national social policy objective. If the Agricultural Wages Board presents further evidence to support and justify an exemption, the Government will reconsider its position.

Agriculture: Air Pollution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the cost of implementing the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations for individual farms. [127375]

Mr. Bradshaw: Various representations have been received by the Department on the costs to farmers of implementing the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations. These have been in the form of parliamentary questions, public correspondence and letters from Members of both Houses.

Air Pollution: Business

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many FTSE 100 companies meet the minimum reporting guidelines on greenhouse gas emissions; [126456]

(2) if he will estimate the annual carbon dioxide emissions in each of the last five years from companies which are not meeting the minimum reporting guidelines on greenhouse gas emissions. [126457]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA's guidelines on environmental reporting, published in January 2006, recommend that companies report their 'direct' and 'indirect' emissions in line with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) protocol, an initiative set up by the World Resources Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development. This protocol is also used by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), which acts on behalf of 225 global investors with total assets of $31 trillion. On an annual basis, the CDP asks global companies to disclose information on greenhouse gas emissions.

83 per cent. of FTSE100 companies responded to CDP's 2006 information request, of which 55 per cent. provided quantified emissions data and 24 per cent. provided emissions data that met the protocol's reporting requirement on 'direct' GHG emissions.

In the absence of a globally accepted framework for corporate GHG emissions reporting, DEFRA is currently in discussions with CDP about the opportunities provided by its role as the Secretariat to the new Climate Disclosure Standards Board. The board was launched at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos to develop and advocate a globally accepted corporate climate reporting standard.

DEFRA does not collect its own estimates of the GHG emissions of individual companies.

Biofuels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much land is used for *(a)* biomass, *(b)* road use biofuel and *(c)* other energy crops; and what estimate he has made of the amount needed to grow enough biofuel to meet the five per cent. biofuel target for road fuel. [126410]

Ian Pearson: In 2005, the latest year for which comprehensive data are currently available, a total of around 209,000 hectares was estimated to be used in England for crops purpose-grown for use as industrial materials and bio-energy. Of this total, oilseed rape for biofuel use accounted for nearly 93,000 hectares. This figure relates only to plantings under the Energy Aid Scheme as the end-use for crops not receiving this aid is not known. Energy crops for use in the generation of heat and electricity accounted for around 600 hectares. Plantings of energy crops have increased significantly since 2005, with over 4,500 hectares now in the ground. Biomass also comes from non purpose-grown sources such as straw and woodfuel from forestry operations.

To meet the 5 per cent. transport biofuel target entirely from UK sources would require between 1 to 1.5 million hectares of crops. However, we anticipate that biofuels in the UK will come from a mixture of home-grown and imported crops, recycled vegetable oils and tallow. In the longer term, as technology improves, straw and wood could be used for bioethanol production, so reducing pressure on land.

Biofuels: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the area of land in Cumbria which is suitable for growing biofuel crops. [127352]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The main crops which can be grown in England to produce biofuels are oilseed rape, wheat and sugar beet, however we have not carried out research into the availability or suitability of land for growing these crops at county level.

In Cumbria, based on the June 2005 Agriculture and Horticulture Census for England, the Region, Counties/Unitary Authorities, approximately 471 hectares of oilseed rape and 5,855 hectares of wheat were grown. Some sugar beet was also grown, however, in order to protect the identity of individual holdings, detailed figures are not included. The survey does not provide information on end use, so it is not possible to determine what proportion of these crops may have been grown for biofuel production.

Birds: Registration

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the public consultation on the proposed changes to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 4, and the registration of rare birds kept in captivity. [127976]

Barry Gardiner: The public consultation closed on 16 February 2007 and we are currently considering the responses. A summary of responses received will be published shortly on the DEFRA website.

Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) with which sectors of industry he is working on the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme; [126429]

(2) what update there has been by industry of funding under the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme; [126440]

(3) what progress has been made by the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme; and if he will make a statement. [126470]

Mr. Bradshaw: *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme is returning £284 million raised from the landfill tax escalator back to business between 2005 and 2008 to improve their resource efficiency and to minimise the levels of waste that are unnecessarily sent to landfill. A Steering Group, consisting of various interested organisations including businesses, advises on the development of the programme.

The Programme provides assistance to all business sectors in England. Funding must provide a potential benefit to those sectors paying landfill tax and, where possible, address those sectors most affected by landfill tax increases. However, information on the sectoral uptake of assistance by English businesses is not stored centrally.

Evaluation results for 2005-06, which are conservative, indicate that BREW saved businesses nearly £88 million and increased their sales by over £14 million. There were also reductions in water use, waste sent to landfill and the amounts of raw materials used by businesses. Many of the benefits will be seen beyond 2005-06. Work is currently under way to assess the impact of Programme spending in the current year, 2006-07.

Carbon Dioxide: Pollution Control

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of voluntary carbon offsetting in the UK complying with *(a)* the CDM Gold Standard, *(b)* certified emissions reductions generated by the Clean Development Mechanism, *(c)* emissions reductions units generated by joint implementation projects, *(d)* EU allowances under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, *(e)* his Department's proposed voluntary code of best practice for carbon offsetting and *(f)* uncertified voluntary emissions reductions. [125284]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* DEFRA does not collect information on the voluntary carbon offsetting market and has not made any estimate.

The Department has published a consultation paper aimed at establishing a voluntary Code of Best Practice for the provision of carbon offsetting to UK customers. The consultation will finish on 13 April 2007 and the intention is to have the code operating by autumn 2007.

We will report on the code's uptake once it has come into operation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* supported into the effect of introducing iron sulphate into the ocean to increase phytoplankton activity and absorb quantities of carbon dioxide. [126283]

Ian Pearson: The Department has not commissioned, nor supported any research on the effect of introducing iron sulphate in the ocean to increase phytoplankton activity and absorb quantities of carbon dioxide.

The Department recognises that, although there may be value in investigating some engineering solutions to combat climate change, there are concerns about their ancillary effects on the environment, the practicalities and the costs of such solutions. The Department's key priority remains finding ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to a level that will prevent dangerous climate change, as well as the need for national and international action.

Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the carbon savings in *(a)* households, *(b)* the business sector, *(c)* central Government and *(d)* local government in (i) million tonnes of carbon and (ii) million tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum in each year since 2004; and what projections he has made for the years up to 2010. [124641]

Ian Pearson: Figures published by the Department show that total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions fell by 3.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalents between 2004-05. CO_2 emissions fell by 0.4 million tonnes during this period, that is, 0.1 million tonnes Carbon (MtC). Savings by individual end-use sectors are not yet available but DEFRA hopes to publish details later this month.

2005 was the first year of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). Under the EU ETS, UK companies are able to buy emissions allowances from other EU countries. Purchase of these allowances is to be taken into account when determining whether the Kyoto target and 2010 domestic goal have been met.

UK installations covered by the scheme emitted 242 million tonnes of CO_2 in 2005, which was 27 million tonnes more than their allocations for that year. The electricity supply industry emitted 36.5 million tonnes more than its allocation; other sectors emitted 9.5 million tonnes less. Adjusted for emissions trading, UK CO_2 emissions in 2005 were about 527 million tonnes—approximately 11 per cent. lower than 1990 levels.

Projections of emissions, and hence savings, are not provided on a year by year basis, but at five-yearly intervals. Furthermore, projections are made only for the whole of the public sector, not for individual parts. Using the latest published figures (UK climate change programme 2006) for actual 2004 emissions and for projected emissions for 2010 (The Energy Challenge, Annex H—which updated those used in the above climate change programme), projected savings in 2010 relative to 1990 for these sectors are:

Households—22.0 MtCO2 (6.0 MtC)

Business—37.9 MtCO2 (10.35 MtC)

Public sector—7.5 MtCO2 (2.05 MtC)

DEFRA will publish an updated appraisal of the impact of policies and measures included in the 2006 climate change programme later this year. This report

will look at the progress of individual policies and measures, and provide a revised projection, if necessary, of the projected saving each policy and measure will deliver in 2010, based on latest available information.

Departments: Furniture

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many items of furniture were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in each year since 1997; and what the value was of those items in each year. [120710]

Barry Gardiner: In 2006 a small sofa was stolen, approximate cost £350. No other items have been lost or stolen since 1997.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many vehicles belonging to his Department were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each year since 1997; and what the (i) make and model and (ii) value was of each vehicle. [121371]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. Since that time, and from information held centrally, no vehicles have been reported lost or stolen.

Departments: Official Engagements

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list his official engagements from 1 January to 28 February 2007. [125952]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State had the following official engagements during January and February.

	Engagement
3 January	Speech, Oxford Farming Conference
10 January	Country Landowners Association to discuss food issues
11 January	Tesco to discuss food labelling
11 January	Climate Change Task Force to discuss climate change issues
16 January	Waste Industry Stakeholders to discuss waste issues
18 January	Marks and Spencer to discuss climate change issues
20 to 24 January	Visit to Sustainable Development Summit in India
29 January	Agriculture and Fish Council, Brussels
30 January	BioRegional to discuss various issues
31 January	Global Cool to discuss climate change
31 January	Lehman Brothers to discuss climate change
1 February	Energy Savings Trust to discuss energy saving
2 February	Visit to Edinburgh on range of environmental issues
20 February	Environment Council, Brussels
21 February	Representatives from a number of supermarkets to discuss various issues
22 February	National Farmers Union to discuss various issues
22 February	GMB Union to discuss climate change
26 February	Speech, National Farmers Union Conference
27 February	Speech, Green Alliance
28 February	ENCAMS to discuss sustainable schools

In addition to the meetings disclosed, he also had a number of other internal meetings with officials.

Departments: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Detergents Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/2469) to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126644]

Ian Pearson: A Regulatory Impact Assessment carried out before the introduction of the Detergents Regulations 2005 estimated that the total one-off compliance costs would be between £8.4 million and £14 million based on compliance testing of 2,800 surfactants. Given the long lead in for these regulations, the costs of additional labelling requirements fell within normal business running costs which were assisted by a six month transition period after the regulations came into force.

As there is relatively little industry development of new surfactants for use in the detergents industry, recurring compliance testing costs are nominal. There are no one-off or recurring administrative costs and no costs to the regulators. These regulations ensure that detergents degrade quickly ensuring high standards of environmental protection.

DEFRA is committed to regulating better and has a target of a 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens. The implementation of a more risk based approach to regulation, in conjunction with tougher penalties combined with improved effectiveness via focus on outcomes, and simplification where possible, is fully consistent with this.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* ongoing costs of implementing the Genetically Modified Organisms (Traceability and Labelling) (England) Regulations 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126659]

Ian Pearson: A full Regulatory Impact Assessment was published alongside the Genetically Modified Organisms (Traceability and Labelling) (England) Regulations 2004. Copies were made available in the Library of the House. It is also available from the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/ria/2004/gmolabelling.pdf

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Water

Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126665]

Ian Pearson: The most recent estimate of the costs of implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) were published in the Final Regulatory Impact Assessment (2004). The cost of compliance that could be quantified at that stage amounted to be between £450 million and £630 million per annum. The RIA also assessed the cost of implementation for the Environment Agency to be £7 million per annum

Benefits that could be quantified and valued appeared to be in the region of £560 million per annum. Given the range of benefits which have not been quantified this is considered to be an underestimate and represents a relatively small proportion of the estimated damages that may be avoided.

A revision of the overall RIA for WFD implementation is planned for 2007.

DEFRA is committed to regulating better and has a target of a 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens. The implementation of a more risk based approach to regulation, in conjunction with tougher penalties combined with improved effectiveness via focus on outcomes, and simplification where possible, is fully consistent with this.

Departments: Travel

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles were travelled by his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials on Government business by (i) air, (ii) rail and (iii) road in 2006. [124522]

Barry Gardiner: Information held centrally on miles travelled by Ministers and officials on Government business by air, rail and road in 2006 is as follows:

Mileage by travel mode

	Ministers	*Officials*
Car	[1]—	[1]—
Rail	[2]16,263	[2]2,015,668
Air	[2]135,557	[2]2,639,751

[1] Not held centrally.
[2] Mileage available from 1 April to 31 December 2006, where travel is booked on departmental contracts. Data for the first quarter of the year is not available

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Vehicle mileage is reported by financial year. DEFRA officials drove 8,930,363 miles on Government business in financial year 2005-06. Mileage collation for financial year 2006-07 will be available in June 2007.

Diesel Fuel: Agriculture

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many people were charged with using illegal red diesel in *(a)* England and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last 10 years; [124907]

(2) how many farmers were charged with the illegal use of red diesel for non-agricultural use in *(a)* England and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [124908]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The number of people convicted in relation to hydrocarbon oils fraud in mainland Great Britain is available in the HMRC annual report, and is shown in the following table. The 2006-07 figure will be reported in annual report later this year. The occupation of the people convicted is not reported.

	Number of people convicted in Great Britain
2001-02	9
2002-03	8
2003-04	17
2004-05	12
2005-06	14

Electronic Tagging: Sheep

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on the generic animal number format for electronic identification for sheep; [127262]

(2) how many unique animal numbers for sheep will be available for the UK under plans to introduce electronic identification for sheep. [127263]

Mr. Bradshaw: EU Council Regulation 21/2004 requires the code structure of electronic identification (EID) transponders to be compliant with International Standards Organisation (ISO) standard 11784. This provides for a 12 digit binary number (the highest number being 274,877,906,043) to be used to identify each animal. However, this range of numbers is not available for sheep alone. The ISO code structure applies to all animals which may be electronically identified so we therefore need to build a way to identify each species into the numbering sequence.

We have yet to decide on what numbering system we will adopt should EID be introduced. Discussions with the devolved Governments and interested organisations in England are ongoing.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the European Commission to publish their implementation report on electronic identification for sheep. [127266]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Commission's implementation report on electronic identification for sheep is expected to be available this spring.

Energy: Business

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the take-up is of the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Management Programme in each region. [127204]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme is returning £284 million

raised from the landfill tax escalator back to business between 2005 and 2008 to improve their resource efficiency and to minimise the levels of waste that are unnecessarily sent to landfill.

A portion of the funding is delivered through the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), in order to co-ordinate delivery of the BREW Programme measures at the regional level, and to carry out regionally specific projects. In 2005-06, £5 million was awarded to the RDAs for the first purpose only, with £11.71 million provided for both purposes in 2006-07.

The majority of BREW funding is awarded to a series of national delivery bodies, including Envirowise, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, the Environment Agency, the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme and the Carbon Trust. DEFRA does not hold a breakdown of how this funding is spent at a regional level.

Exhaust Emissions: Aviation

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the carbon emissions were of international flights to and from the UK in each of the last five years; [126454]

(2) what the levels of carbon dioxide emissions were from internal domestic flights in the UK in each of the last five years; [126455]

(3) what the level of carbon emissions was from the aviation industry in each of the last five years. [126458]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows emissions of carbon dioxide from domestic UK flights, international flights leaving UK airports and total emissions from all UK aviation, in million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$) in each year from 2000 to 2005. Emissions from flights arriving in the UK are not estimated.

	Emissions from domestic aviation	*Emissions from international aviation from UK*[1]	*Total emissions from domestic and international aviation*
2000	1.96	30.25	32.21
2001	2.06	29.49	31.55
2002	2.07	28.94	31.01
2003	2.11	29.64	31.76
2004	2.30	33.13	35.43
2005	2.46	35.01	37.47

[1] Definition of the UK excludes UK overseas territories.

International aviation is reported as an information item in the UK greenhouse gas inventory but does not, by international agreement, count towards national totals under the Kyoto Protocol.

The impact of aviation on climate change is not limited to CO_2 emissions. Although there is need for further research, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated that the total climate change impact of aviation is between two and four times greater than that of its CO_2 emissions alone.

Exhaust Emissions: Shipping

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the carbon emissions were of the naval shipping industry in each of the last five years. [126453]

Ian Pearson: The emissions of a particular industry can be explained only on an end user basis, not a source basis. To calculate emissions from the Naval shipping industry one would have to look at such things as the steel and other materials used, the electricity used etc. and work out what the carbon cost of those are. The UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, which is required by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, does not collect emissions data on this basis.

Farms: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department plans to allocate to farmers in Lancashire to improve the environmental sustainability of farms. [126600]

Barry Gardiner: Environmental Stewardship (ES) is the current main funding mechanism by which land managers are encouraged to deliver effective environmental management on their land. Budgets for the schemes operating under ES (Entry Level Stewardship, Organic Entry Level Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship) are allocated by region, rather than by county. However, in Lancashire there is already a commitment to pay £2,392,757 annually to agreement holders under these schemes. The hon. Member may also wish to note that under the predecessor scheme to ES, Countryside Stewardship, the annual commitment for 2007 in Lancashire is £2,359,098.

We are unable to confirm the regional budgets for ES until we receive approval of the new Rural Development Programme for England (2007 -13) from the European Commission. Negotiations over the final funding package, including the question of voluntary modulation, are continuing. However, in advance of formal approval we are keeping ES open to new applications. Agreements entered into since 1 January 2007 are provisional and are being funded from existing indicative budgets agreed when the scheme was launched.

Flood Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many homes were assessed to be at significant risk of flooding, defined as >1.3 per cent. probability, in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006. [123651]

Ian Pearson: The figures for properties in England identified as being at significant risk of flooding (defined as a probability of flooding in any one year greater than 1.3 per cent. or one in 75) from the Environment Agency's national flood risk assessments are:

2003: no assessment undertaken;

2004: 315,000 properties, with subsequent analysis indicating that approximately 285,000 were residential;

2005: 517,000 properties, but the assessment did not differentiate between residential and commercial;

2006: 469,000 properties of which approximately 393,000 are residential.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify my answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1328W, in which the figure for the 2004 assessment of properties at significant risk related to residential properties only, while all other figures related to residential and commercial properties.

It should also be noted that the differences between assessments are almost entirely due to changes in data and analysis techniques as opposed to the actual flood risk, for example the number of properties within the floodplain for which no result is available has fallen dramatically from 265,000 in 2004 to 28,000 in 2006. This represents an improvement in the analysis but leads to a commensurate increase in the number of properties in each risk band

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1824-5W, on flood control: finance, who decided that only certain development studies and coastal monitoring projects would receive new funding. [126406]

Ian Pearson: My letters of 20 December to the Environment Agency, Local Government Association and Association of Drainage Authorities explained that funding for new capital improvement projects and related studies in 2007-08 was severely constrained by the high level of funding commitment to ongoing projects but that I had decided to allocate £2.1 million to fund a review of Shoreline Management Plans, development of strategy plans, and coastal monitoring and other essential studies to allow strategic planning for the investment programme to be strengthened. Total funding from DEFRA to the operating authorities for flood risk management in 2007-08 will be £457 million, excluding spend on coast protection. The letters are published on the DEFRA website and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its predecessor provided to (i) the IPPR and (ii) IPPR Trading Ltd. in each year since May 1997; and for what purpose funding was provided. [124212]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally, payments to the IPPR are as follows; we do not have a breakdown of funding between IPPR and IPPR Trading Ltd.:

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2001-02	0
2002-03	352.50
2003-04	1,515.75
2004-05	58.75
2005-06	[1]61,375.14
2006-07[2]	[3]18,458.29

[1] Includes £51,896 to meet the costs of a secondee from IPPR to Defra. [2] April to December. [3] Includes £11,408 to meet the costs of a secondee from IPPR to Defra.

Payments have been for advice on energy, climate and environmental strategy, including environmental pollution; business and strategy; business and transport; business and consumers together with a joint public seminar with DEFRA on India's sustainability challenge.

Land Drainage

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* strategy and *(b)* funding the Government have put in place for integrated drainage plans in urban areas (i) to address the risks of sewer flooding and (ii) to increase the storm capacity of drainage systems; and if he will make a statement. [125624]

Ian Pearson: In January 2007, as part of DEFRA's new strategy on flood management (known as "Making space for water"), I announced the start of 15 integrated urban drainage pilot studies around the country. Further details can be found at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/policy/strategy/ha2.htm . The projects, made possible by £1.7 million of funding from DEFRA, will test new approaches to reduce the risk of urban drainage flooding, both from sewers and stormwater.

While the pilot projects will not directly fund capital improvements, they should bring greater clarity on responsibilities for funding urban drainage management between water companies, local authorities, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and the Highways Agency. Following completion of the pilot projects in spring 2008, DEFRA will produce new guidance on effective partnership working to deliver integrated drainage solutions in high risk urban catchments and prepare a regulatory impact assessment for any proposed legislative changes.

For 2005-10, Ofwat has allowed water and sewerage companies a programme of nearly £1 billion to safeguard homes against the risk of sewer flooding. This would resolve or mitigate every known high risk problem of internal flooding from overloaded sewers where companies' plans said action is needed by 2010.

Livestock: Transport

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when Article 36 of the Treaty of Rome was last invoked for the export of live animals. [127624]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* I assume that the question refers to Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome, which was Article 36 prior to the current Treaty.

I am aware of two rulings by the European Court of Justice in cases relating to the export of live animals in which Article 30 (then Article 36) was invoked. Case C-5/1994, ruled on 23 May 1996, relates to a UK ban on exporting sheep to Spain because of concerns over welfare conditions in Spanish abattoirs. Case C-1/1996, ruled on 15 July 1997, was a case brought by Compassion in World Farming on banning the export of calves destined for veal crates. In both cases, the European Court of Justice made clear that a European

Union member state may not ban or limit a trade if it is subject to harmonised rules that must be complied with equally by all member states.

Veterinary Medicine

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what veterinary uses are permitted for *(a)* kanamycin and *(b)* neomycin; and how much of each medicine was used in the UK in each of the last five years. [128107]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no veterinary pharmaceutical products authorised for sale on the UK market in the last five years that include kanamycin.

Neomycin is present as an active substance with antimicrobial activity in a number of veterinary medicinal products with several routes of administration including topical, oral and injectable. It is a broad spectrum antibiotic active against a number of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria.

The following table details how much neomycin was sold for veterinary use on an annual basis in the UK, for the last five years for which data are available.

	Tonnes of Neomycin active ingredient sold	*Number of products included*
2001	5.18	17
2002	5.22	20
2003	3.45	18
2004	4.51	15
2005	4.92	9

Wastes: Nuisance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the annual clean-up and repair costs imposed on *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* businesses in respect of (i) litter, (ii) dog fouling, (iii) graffiti, (iv) fly-posting, (v) noise and (vi) fly-tipping in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [126899]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local authorities do not have a duty to clear fly-posting or graffiti. We do not therefore collect data on clear-up costs to local authorities or to businesses for these or for noise. Street cleansing costs (which include both litter and dog fouling) have been maintained for the last five years, and are shown in the following table[1].

[1] It should be noted that comparisons across years may not be valid due to changes in the method of reporting the information.

Total England net current data for street cleansing (not chargeable to highways)

	Amount (£000)
2001-02	434,366
2002-03	476,592
2003-04	538,542
2004-05	594,643
2005-06	629,930

Source: Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

Flycapture, the national database of fly-tipping incidents, was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, to record fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities. Data on fly-tipping levels and estimated clean-up costs are therefore only available from April 2004 onwards.

The cost of clearing illegally dumped waste reported by local authorities between April 2004 and March 2005 was over £44 million. For the period between April 2005 and March 2006, the cost was almost £50 million.

DEFRA does not hold data on the clear-up costs of fly-tipping to businesses. However, when the costs of clearance on private land are included, the 2005-06 clearance costs are estimated to rise to over £100 million.

Water Treatment: Reed Beds

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* Water UK, *(b)* water companies and *(c)* the Environment Agency on the use of reed-based technology. [127200]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA recognises that reed beds can usefully form part of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and part of the process for treating foul sewage.

DEFRA is working closely with Communities and Local Government (CLG) in the development of surface water management planning as part of revised Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25. The production of surface water management plans is being trialled by some of the partnerships within DEFRA's Integrated Urban Drainage Pilot Projects. The 15 pilots across England, made possible by £1.7 million of funding from DEFRA, will test new approaches to reduce the risk of urban drainage flooding.

DEFRA is a key member of the National SUDS Working Group (NSWG), of which representatives of water companies, Water UK, the Local Government Association, the Environment Agency, developers and other organisations such as CABE are also members. DEFRA has a current work stream to examine options for resolving the combined issue of SUDS adoption, maintenance and funding and has recently consulted with the NSWG on this matter. We expect to carry out wider consultation in this regard later this year.

In respect of foul sewage treatment, the owner/operator of a sewage treatment plant is required to comply with the relevant discharge consent. The appropriate process and techniques for achieving compliance vary from location to location and are essentially decided by the owner/operator of the treatment works. Reed beds are acknowledged to be a suitable technology and are used in many situations, including at works managed by water companies (instead of, or in addition to other processes). As we look at making development more sustainable, by reducing carbon inputs, reed beds may be one of the techniques that facilitate this.

Whales: Conservation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on fish imports from *(a)*

Norway and *(b)* Iceland; and what account was taken of those countries' policies on whaling in formulating this policy. [127038]

Mr. Bradshaw: Fisheries agreements with third countries, including those on imports, are negotiated by the European Commission on behalf of all member sates. Neither the Council of Ministers nor the Commission exercises Community competence over whaling issues and there is no common EU line on whaling matters. Not all EU member states are even members of the International Whaling Commission. As such, negotiations with third countries on fisheries and trade matters are unaffected by those countries' stance on whaling. While the European Commission joined the recent demarche against Iceland over its resumption of commercial whaling, it did so on its own behalf, rather than on behalf of member states.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will write to EU member states asking them to join the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in sufficient time to enable them to be eligible for voting rights at this year's IWC meeting in May. [127039]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right, hon. Friends the Secretary of State and the Foreign Secretary have recently jointly written to a dozen EU and Accession States encouraging them to join the International Whaling Commission. A new publication, 'Protecting Whales —A Global Responsibility', endorsed by the Prime Minister and Sir David Attenborough has also been sent to these countries encouraging them to join the effort to protect all cetacean species. UK embassies and Ministers across Government will continue to lobby on this issue in the run-up to the next annual meeting of the IWC in Alaska in May. However, not all of those who are willing to join the IWC will be able to complete the necessary parliamentary processes in time to secure voting rights at the 2007 meeting.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support is being given to revitalise the Afghan economy as part of the UK's counter-narcotics strategy in Afghanistan. [127070]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is spending £270 million over three years to support the Government of Afghanistan's (GoA) National Drug Control Strategy. We have helped the GoA create a Counter Narcotics Trust Fund to mobilise international donor support and develop Afghan counter narcotics planning and capacity. DFID plays a key role by promoting alternative, legal livelihoods to help revitalise the Afghan economy. Legal livelihoods can be regulated and taxed by the government, and form the basis for long-term, sustainable economic growth. DFID's Livelihoods Programme, worth nearly £150 million between 2006-09, is supporting GoA National Priority Programmes to develop legal livelihood opportunities as alternatives to poppy farming. Examples include our £18 million support for the National Rural Access Programme (NRAP) and our £20 million contribution over three years to the Micro-finance Investment Support Facility of Afghanistan (MISFA). NRAP has built essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges and irrigation schemes, and has generated over 15 million days of labour for Afghans. MISFA has so far provided small loans to over 230,000 Afghan families. This has enabled poor people who would otherwise not have access to credit to successfully invest in income-generating activities.

DFID is also contributing £9 million to the GoA to help boost legal private sector activity by reducing red tape and improving the business environment, and supporting the mining sector and encouraging foreign investment. Of this, £1 million has been channelled through a World Bank-managed Trust Fund which provides risk guarantees to attract foreign investors. In the past year, this Trust Fund has supported three projects which are expected to trigger over $26 million of investment, stimulate the cotton and pharmaceutical sector, and expand access to credit. This will help to further enhance private sector opportunities and revitalise the legal Afghan economy.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many alternative livelihoods projects have been established in Helmand Province; and if she will make a statement. [127167]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

DFID has helped to establish a range of alternative livelihoods projects in Helmand. We are providing £30 million over three years to the Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (HARDP), from 2006 to 2009. This programme is increasing alternative livelihood opportunities for the rural poor of Helmand by supporting the Government of Afghanistan's implementation of its National Priority Programmes. These include the National Solidarity Programme, National Rural Access Programme, Micro-Finance Investment and Support Facility in Afghanistan, and Water and Sanitation Programme. They are providing longer-term improvements in water and sanitation, essential small-scale rural infrastructure, and access to small loans, as well as improved roads, access to markets, agricultural inputs and training.

DFID is also funding the £3 million Research into Alternative Livelihoods Fund (RALF). This supports work on alternative livelihoods in Helmand, for example through the Restorative Agriculture and Rural Economy Research Project, which explores the export feasibility of numerous crops including grapes, tomatoes, mushrooms, eggplants and okra. The project is evaluating different small-scale agri-processing industries, and producing case studies of value-added alternative livelihood options, for example tomato paste.

We are funding 114 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Helmand. These are not all alternative livelihoods projects, but they do support a range of income-generating activities for poor people. These include furniture-making, construction, carpet-weaving and the provision of tractors for farming.

Project Al Yamamah

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been received by her Department on the Al Yamamah military contract since the announcement that the Serious Fraud Office was ending its investigation into the contract.

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 26 February, *Official Report*, column 1138W.

Turkmenistan

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives of the Government of Turkmenistan following the election of Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov. [127611]

Mr. Hoon: Our ambassador, and other EU ambassadors resident in Ashgabat, met the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, on 15 February.

Also on 15 February, the EU special representative for Central Asia, Pierre Morel, met President Berdymukhamedov. The talks focussed on possible future co-operation between the EU and Turkmenistan on the areas of reform announced by President Berdymukhamedov during his inauguration speech, including healthcare, education and agriculture.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with independent observers of the presidential election in Turkmenistan held on 11 February 2007. [127612]

Mr. Hoon: The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights sent a technical assistance team to Turkmenistan for the presidential election. The UN also visited Turkmenistan in the period of the presidential election and discussed possible electoral reform with the Turkmen authorities. However, neither sent an observation mission to the presidential election in Turkmenistan on 11 February.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her Ministerial colleagues have had with (i) EU counterparts and (ii) other governments in the region of Turkmenistan, following the election of Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov. [127613]

Mr. Hoon: We are working closely with our EU partners on how the EU can best support and assist the Government of Turkmenistan to implement democratic and human rights reforms following the presidential election on 11 February.

The EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Pierre Morel, met President Berdymukhamedov on 15 February and later that day saw the Foreign Minister, Rashid Meredov, with EU Ambassadors. The EU stands ready to co-operate with the Government of Turkmenistan to help support the implementation of the government's reform programme, particularly in the areas of rule of law and social development, agriculture, economy, education and the environment. An EU-Turkmenistan Seminar on Social and Human Development will take place in April. This will also involve other international organisations and UN agencies.

Our Ambassadors in the region discuss regional and country specific issues with their host foreign ministries on a regular basis.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her Ministerial colleagues have had with the UN Human Rights Council on proposed visits to Turkmenistan following the election of Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov. [127614]

Mr. Hoon: We very much welcome the suggestion that the UN Commissioner for Human Rights and the Rapporteur on Religious Freedom visit Turkmenistan. However, to date, we have had no direct discussions in the UN Human Rights Council on this issue. The timing and agenda for such visits depends on the Government of Turkmenistan.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her Ministerial colleagues have had with representatives of the government of Turkmenistan on travel restrictions and the imprisonment of dissidents. [127615]

Mr. Hoon: There have been no recent discussions with the Government of Turkmenistan specifically on travel restrictions or the imprisonment of dissidents. However, during his latest visit to Turkmenistan, the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Pierre Morel, raised the issue of human rights. Our Ambassador in Ashgabat also raises the issue of human rights at every appropriate opportunity and the Embassy continues to follow developments in this area, supporting individual cases.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications of the election of Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov for relations between the UK and Turkmenistan. [127689]

Mr. Hoon: Following the election of President Berdymukhamedov, there have been welcome signs of a new commitment to reform in Turkmenistan. The UK stands ready to work closely with our EU and international partners to support and encourage this reform, particularly in the areas of rule of law and social development, agriculture, economy, education and the environment. An EU-Turkmenistan seminar on social and human development is planned to take place in April. With possible forthcoming visits from the UN Commissioner on Human Rights and the Rapporteur on Religious Freedom, there is potential for closer relations in a number of areas than in the past.

Uzbekistan

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives of the Uzbek government on the imprisonment of Umida Niyazova, Mutabar Tadjibaeva and Gulbakhor Turaeva; and if she will make a statement. [127616]

Mr. Hoon: We remain concerned by the arrests of Umida Niyazova and Gulbakhor Turaeva. Our Embassy in Tashkent is following their situation closely, remaining in touch with human rights groups and Niyazova's lawyer. Our Ambassador raised both cases with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 February. The German Embassy, as EU Presidency, has registered with the Uzbek authorities the EU's concern at the detention of both women, in Note Verbales on 13 and 20 February.

We have followed the case of Mutabar Tadjibaeva closely since her arrest in 2005. Our Embassy was present at her trial. We are working closely with human rights groups in touch with her family. We are concerned at reports that her relatives have been refused access to her. We regularly raise Tadjibaeva's case with the Uzbek authorities, bilaterally and through the EU.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her ministerial colleagues have had with representatives of the German government on Uzbekistan. [127617]

Mr. Hoon: We discuss Uzbekistan with the German Government regularly. Most recently, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council discussed Uzbekistan on 5 March.

Our ambassador in Tashkent is also in regular contact with his German and other EU colleagues. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials also maintain a regular dialogue with German officials on Uzbekistan, in London, Berlin and Brussels.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her ministerial colleagues have had with representatives of other Governments in Central Asia on Uzbekistan. [127618]

Mr. Hoon: I discussed Uzbekistan with the Kazakh Foreign Minister during my visit to Kazakhstan in September 2006. Our ambassadors in Central Asia discuss regional and country specific issues with their host foreign ministries on a regular basis.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan. [127619]

Mr. Hoon: The human rights situation remains a cause for concern. The situation has deteriorated further since November 2006. There have been more arrests of respected human rights defenders, including Umida Niyazova, who worked as an interpreter for Human Rights Watch in Tashkent. The International Committee of the Red Cross have not yet been able to visit prisons, despite apparently reaching agreement with the Uzbeks in November 2006. The Uzbek authorities continue to deny access to, and information on, the whereabouts of individuals of concern to the EU, for example Zainabiddinov and Tadjibaeva. More foreign non-governmental organizations in Tashkent, such as World Vision, are facing threats of eviction from the country.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterpart in South Africa on the arrest and detention of Morgan Tsvangirai by security forces in Zimbabwe on 11 March 2007; and if she will make a statement. [128635]

Mr. McCartney: I raised in strong terms our concerns at the UN Human Rights Council on 13 March. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke on 15 March to her South African counterpart about the worsening situation in Zimbabwe. We will continue to press South Africa and other African states to put pressure on Mugabe to allow peaceful protests to occur and to engage with the democratic opposition and civil society to bring about a resolution to Zimbabwe's problems.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has already made a statement publicly recording her condemnation of the shooting, arrest and beatings of protestors in Harare on 11 March.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to discuss recent human rights abuses in Zimbabwe with EU member governments; and if she will make a statement. [128504]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Zimbabwe with the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carl Bildt, on 15 March and it will be a subject for discussion with the Spanish Foreign Minister on 19 March. I raised in strong terms our concerns at the UN Human Rights Council on 13 March. We believe that the EU should show its abhorrence of state-sponsored violence on 11 March by adding key perpetrators to the EU's visa ban list. The EU will also engage southern African governments on the issue, following the visit by President Kikwete of Tanzania to Zimbabwe on 15 March.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the treatment in detention of Morgan Tsvangirai, Arthur Mutambara and other democracy activists in Zimbabwe. [128158]

Mr. McCartney: From their injuries, it is clear to all that Morgan Tsvangirai and others who were detained on 11 March were subjected to treatment of the most barbaric kind. This demonstrates Mugabe and his

government's total disregard for international law and the depths to which they are prepared to sink to silence their democratic opponents.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterparts in *(a)* the United States, *(b)* China, *(c)* the Russian Federation and *(d)* France on the Zimbabwean Government's recent treatment of democracy activists at a prayer meeting in Harare. [128159]

Mr. McCartney: We remain in close contact with all permanent members of the UN Security Council and encourage the UN to remain focussed on all aspects of the worsening situation in Zimbabwe. We welcomed the clear statements from the UN Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the recent arrests and beatings.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of violence toward democracy activists detained by the Government of Zimbabwe following a prayer meeting in Harare; and what representations she has made to *(a)* her counterparts in the European Union, *(b)* the EU External Affairs Commissioner and *(c)* her counterparts in South Africa on the issue. [128160]

Mr. McCartney: Our embassy in Harare is keeping us informed of events in Zimbabwe. Both my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, have made statements expressing our deep condemnation of what has happened there in recent days. I raised in strong terms our concerns at the UN Human Rights Council on 13 March. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Zimbabwe with Nksozana Dlamini-Zuma and Carl Bildt on 15 March. We are in close contact with other EU countries and continue to discuss what needs to happen to relieve the terrible economic and humanitarian crisis facing its people.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number killed or seriously wounded in the recent incident at the prayer meeting at Highfield in Harare. [128161]

Mr. McCartney: Reports indicate that one movement for democratic change activist named Gift Tandare was shot and killed at the save Zimbabwe campaign prayer meeting on 11 March. Many others were wounded, some very seriously. 12 of those arrested and most seriously beaten both on and after arrest, including Morgan Tsvangirai, are still recovering in hospital. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has condemned the shooting, arrest and beatings of those who were protesting peacefully.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has held with the British Ambassador to Harare on violence and intimidation towards democracy activists detained in Zimbabwe. [128172]

Mr. McCartney: Our ambassador in Harare and officials from the embassy are closely following events on the ground, talking to those who were involved and reporting back on developments. At this critical time in Zimbabwe, their accurate and timely reporting is absolutely crucial.

Zimbabwe: Judiciary

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impartiality of the judiciary in Zimbabwe. [128109]

Mr. McCartney: Against the background of Zimbabwe's deepening economic and humanitarian crisis, we are increasingly concerned at the capacity of the Zimbabwean judiciary to maintain its quality of service and to resist increasing, overt political pressure. Only last month, a senior judge in Zimbabwe voiced her concerns in this regard and there are already strains beginning to show in the magistrates courts.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he intends to deploy Challenger tanks in Afghanistan. [127026]

Des Browne: There are no plans to send Challenger tanks to Afghanistan at present.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* suicide and *(b)* improvised explosive device attacks against NATO forces in Afghanistan were recorded in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [127155]

Mr. Ingram: The number of attacks in Afghanistan has increased significantly from 2005 to 2006. It is estimated that, in 2005, there were approximately 500 improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, of which approximately 25 were suicide IED attacks. In 2006, it is assessed that there were approximately 1,525 IED attacks, of which approximately 150 were suicide IED attacks. These figures do not necessarily represent the complete statistics but are an estimate. The majority of attacks are against International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops or Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF); however, it is not always possible to define the specific target in any given incident.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the total numbers of troops available to the International Security Assistance Force from *(a)* the United States, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* France and *(d)* the UK are serving in Afghanistan. [126690]

Des Browne: Of the total international security assistance force of around 35,500 troops, provided by the United States, Germany, France and the UK, the approximate percentages are as follows:

	Percentage
US	39
Germany	8
France	3
UK	15

The UK contribution will increase to approximately 21 per cent. once the force enhancements announced on 26 February have deployed fully.

Armed Forces: Prosecutions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Army legal service are investigating legal cases related to operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [128079]

Mr. Ingram: The Army legal services branch of the Adjutant General's Corps (ALS) does not investigate cases, this is the role of the Royal Military Police (RMP). The role of ALS is threefold: the provision of advice to the chain of command on, inter alia, disciplinary matters; the provision of a prosecuting authority for the Army; and the provision of a legal advice service for servicemen and their families stationed overseas.

At this time ALS has two officers serving in Iraq providing advice to the chain of command on disciplinary matters and one officer in Afghanistan providing legal assistance to soldiers deployed in theatre. Four officers from the Army Prosecuting Authority (APA) have cases in their current caseload related to operations in Afghanistan and Iraq: one case is related to operations in Afghanistan and three are related to operations in Iraq.

Armed Forces: Training

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the long-term effects of physical training on the joints of servicemen are better understood; and if he will make a statement. [123254]

Derek Twigg: UK service personnel will characteristically take part in a wide range of physical activities during the course of their service. These will include not only supervised activities related to their training, but also many unsupervised physical activities, physical training and sport undertaken at their own volition. For this reason, it is often not possible to attribute with confidence a specific chronic overuse injury to any single, supervised, physical training activity.

However, the nature and occurrence of the most common lower limb injuries (LLI) have formed the focus for many research papers, and LLI have been shown to be common to military populations throughout NATO. When all factors have been considered, the single most commonly-cited physical activity during which the majority of overuse lower limb injuries have been reported is running.

MOD undertakes research to understand the underlying factors which may explain the relatively high incidence (compared with age and gender-matched, non-military populations) of LLIs among service personnel. Research has been conducted (both by the UK and throughout NATO) on a regular basis since the 1970s. Recent research funded by MOD's Human Capability scientific research programme has included studies of the pathogenesis of stress fractures; bone health; musculoskeletal injuries; and a Physical Training shoe project.

Ballistic Missile Defence: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a decision on the deployment in the UK of US missiles for the US Missile Defense system will require the approval of Parliament. [126933]

Des Browne: There has been no request from the United States Government to base interceptor missiles anywhere in the United Kingdom. It has not been the practice of successive administrations to seek parliamentary approval for decisions of this type. The Government would in any case seek to ensure that Parliament had adequate opportunity for debate on issues relating to missile defence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has held with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* the United States on the UK hosting US interceptor missiles for the US missile defense system; and what the date was of the (i) first such discussion and (ii) most recent such discussion. [126956]

Des Browne: The UK regularly discusses with the US our contribution to their missile defense system. Discussions on possible additional support are at a early stage. There has been no request from the US Government to base missile interceptors anywhere in the UK. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Diego Garcia: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the use of Diego Garcia by the US for offensive purposes. [127994]

Des Browne: The UK's policy on the use of Diego Garcia by the US is based on the 1966 exchange of notes (updated in 1976 and with subsequent amendments and additions). The notes allow the US to use the base as a forward operating location for aircraft and ships and require the US to seek prior approval for any operations that they wish to undertake from Diego Garcia.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the use by hostile forces of surface to air missiles in Iraq. [126480]

Des Browne: All threats to UK forces in Iraq are kept under constant review. This includes the threat posed by surface to air missiles. I am withholding further

details as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the Iranian *(a)* personnel, *(b)* explosives and *(c)* expertise being used in Iraq. [126603]

Des Browne: I hold regular discussions with the US Defense Secretary on issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Iraq.

Iran is an influential neighbour in the region and its behaviour continues to be a cause for concern. We and the US continually assess the nature of insurgency in Iraq including the influence of outside groups.

Support from within Iran, including the Quds Force, goes to groups who are attacking our forces and fuels the sectarian violence in Iraq. In our assessment some of the improvised explosive devices that are being used against our forces use technology that originates from Iran.

Iranian links to illegal armed groups either through supply of weapons, training or funding, are completely unacceptable. We have said so and so have the Iraqi Government.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of the *(a)* defence teams, *(b)* prosecution teams and *(c)* other costs related to the court martial in (i) the prosecution of the seven paratroopers for alleged crimes in Iraq in November 2005 and (ii) the prosecution of the four guardsmen for alleged crimes in Iraq in June 2006. [128083]

Mr. Ingram: The costs requested were:

	3 Para Trial	*IG Trial*
Defence costs	£3.04m	£1.283m
Prosecution costs	£0.254m	£0.193m
Other costs	£0.511m	£0.210m
Total	£3.813m	£1.686m

Mail Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will authorise the continuation of the free mail and parcel service to troops in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [115462]

Des Browne: A free packet scheme was first introduced on 17 April 2003, as a temporary measure unique to Iraq, at a time when service personnel did not have access to the welfare facilities that are now available in both Iraq and Afghanistan. A decision was taken to end the scheme on 8 April 2004 when the provision of goods and services in Iraq reached the required standard. These include welfare telephones (30 minutes free calls per person per week to anywhere in the world); unlimited free letter mail and electronic letters (where available); free e-mail and internet access; newspapers, magazines, books and board games; fitness equipment; and shopping facilities provided by the Expeditionary Forces Institute. The Department recognises that relatives will wish to send Christmas presents to those in operational theatres and a pre-Christmas free-packet scheme has therefore been a standard element of the Operational Welfare Package since 2005.

Operational welfare is a high priority for the Department and we have looked at extending the free packet scheme to become a permanent feature to all operational theatres where UK service personnel are deployed, but personnel on the ground stated a preference for improvements to welfare telephone and internet provision above free mail. On 10 October 2006, we announced improvements to the telephone and internet services, increasing the number of free telephone minutes from 20 to 30 per week.

Members: Correspondence

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to answer the letter of 24 January from the hon. Member for Gosport on Selly Oak hospital in Birmingham. [126968]

Derek Twigg: I wrote to the hon. Member on 19 March 2007.

Red Arrows

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress he has made on basing options for the Red Arrows. [127630]

Mr. Ingram: Work continues to identify the optimum basing solution for the Red Arrows, taking into account the team's operational requirements and the costs involved. No decision has yet been taken.

Security Guards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts were awarded by his Department to private military security companies for work in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* other countries in each of the last five years; what was the (i) value and (ii) purpose of each such contract; and if he will make a statement. [127016]

Mr. Ingram: For information on contracts let in Iraq I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Derek Conway) on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1657W.

For the purposes of this response I have taken the question to refer to armed security contracts overseas. One contract was awarded by the MOD in Afghanistan in financial year 2006-07, with a value of approximately £35,000. The contract was for the provision of security for UK civilian advisors to the Afghan MOD.

No other contracts of this type have been awarded in the last five years.

Selly Oak Hospital

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is in command of the military medical staff attached to the NHS Selly Oak hospital; and at what rank. [128480]

Derek Twigg: The commanding officer of the NHS Selly Oak hospital is Air Commodore Anthony Batchelor CBE Bsc. MBBS FRCP FFOM DAvMed FRAes RAF and was appointed in August 2004.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military medical staff are attached to the NHS Selly Oak hospital, broken down by rank; and what duties they are allocated. [128481]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested.

The details of the 156 military staff attached to Selly Oak hospital is currently being collated. I will write to the hon. Member when this is complete.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casino Advisory Panel

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research the Casino Advisory Panel *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated to estimate the likely earnings for regional casinos. [127653]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 15 March 2007]*: None. However, the panel asked shortlisted local authorities what estimates they had made as to the likely profits of a casino in their area, insofar as it was relevant to the viability, likelihood of implementation and the likely regeneration benefits.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she made of the experience at a strategic and senior level in the regeneration of disadvantaged areas of the members of the Casino Advisory Panel before recommending their appointment. [128463]

Mr. Caborn: The Casino Advisory Panel was appointed in accordance with Nolan principles following an open competition. The independent interview panel which was responsible for the appointments process was satisfied that five individuals they recommended for appointment would mean that the panel would have available to it the required senior, strategic level experience in the areas specified in the person specification, including in the regeneration of disadvantaged areas.

Biographical details of the five individuals selected to become the chair and members of the panel were included in the press release, issued on 30 September 2005, which announced the establishment of the Panel.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the contribution of the Casino Advisory Panel's interpretation of social impact to the overall object of the Gambling Act 2005 on reducing problem gambling. [128465]

Mr. Caborn: None. The Casino Advisory Panel was asked to identify a range of areas for the one regional, eight large and eight small casinos permitted by the Gambling Act 2005 which would provide the best possible test of social impact. The panel's interpretation of this criterion, and its assessment of how each of the proposals before it rated against this criterion, is set out in the panel's report. The Government are satisfied that the panel has taken its terms of reference seriously and applied them in a balanced and consistent way.

All existing casinos, and any new casino that opens, will be subject to the stringent new safeguards we are introducing to ensure that the risk of problem gambling is minimised, in line with the overall objectives of the Gambling Act 2005.

Casinos

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 707W, on casinos, what factors were taken into account when deciding to commission Lancaster University to advise on the methodology for the assessment of social and economic impact of the new casinos; and if she will make a statement. [127521]

Mr. Caborn: Lancaster university was commissioned to advise on the methodology for the assessment of the social and economic impact of the new casinos following an open tender process. I am arranging for a copy of the invitation to tender to be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what revisions her Department has made to the national policy statement on casinos published in December 2004 after the reduction of the regional casino licence number to one during the passage of the Gambling Act in March 2005. [128462]

Mr. Caborn: One change has been made since April 2005.

Paragraph 24 of the national policy statement suggests that existing casinos would retain their current gaming machine entitlement of 10 machines. This entitlement was doubled to 20 from 1 October 2005, following a commitment made in Parliament by Lord McIntosh during the passage of the Gambling Bill, on 6 April 2005, House of Lords, *Official Report*, column 837.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department held with the Gambling Commission on the implications of using a test of social impact for awarding a regional casino licence for the progress towards the objective of controlling problem gambling. [128466]

Mr. Caborn: None. The Government published the criteria they proposed to use for selecting the areas where the new categories casinos permitted by the Gambling Act 2005 would be located in their national statement of policy published on 16 December 2004. The Gambling Commission came into being on 1 October 2005.

Conservation Officers: Training

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what training her Department provides for local authority conservation officers. [127646]

Mr. Lammy: My Department does not provide training for local authority conservation officers. However, English Heritage offers a range of developmental opportunities for conservation officers and other historic environment professionals.

These include training organised through the Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) project, and through the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education Professional Training in the Historic Environment programme.

English Heritage also works closely with the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC). A recently completed English Heritage/IHBC survey of conservation officers in England will help to identify their training needs, and in turn inform future training provision.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128089]

Mr. Lammy: The Department had a zero spend on advertising and promotional campaigns between 1997 and 2002. Expenditure in subsequent years is set out as follows:

	Campaign	*Spend (£)*
2003-04	BBC Charter (Press advertising)	20,987
2004-05	BBC Charter (Radio advertising)	37,085
2004-05	Digital Switchover (PR)	170,000
2005-06	Digital Switchover (PR)	320,000
2005-06	Licensing Communications broken down as:	139,578
	PR	70,000
	Direct mail	18,550
	Press advertising	51,028
2006-07	Tourism Consultation broken down as:	12,868
	Press advertising	4,903
	Direct mail	7,965
2006-07	Digital Switchover (PR)	90,880

Film: Archives

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects the national plan for regional film archives to be published. [127941]

Mr. Woodward: The UK Film Council is working with the British Film Institute (BFI) and key stakeholders to develop a national film archive strategy and business plan. It is expected that this strategy for the BFI national archive and the eight regional film archives will be published on May 31 2007.

Gambling: Misuse

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the effects of problem gambling; what estimate she has made of the numbers of problem gamblers; and what reports her Department has produced on problem gambling. [128169]

Mr. Caborn: The current estimate is that 0.6 per cent. of the adult population of Great Britain are problem gamblers. This figure is drawn from 'Gambling Behaviour in Britain: Results from the British Gambling Prevalence Study' (National Centre for Social Research, June 2000).

The Gambling Commission is conducting a further prevalence study and will report in autumn 2007.

Licensed Premises: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed premises there are in Tamworth constituency and how many of these are *(a)* public houses, *(b)* clubs, *(c)* supermarkets and *(d)* off-licences. [128333]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will break down the funding allocated to *(a)* English Institute of Sport (EIS) services, *(b)* sports science and *(c)* sports medicine services for each Summer Olympic sport within their World Class Reference Pathway Funding through to 2009 as referred to in the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 569-70W, on the Olympics. [127949]

Mr. Caborn: As part of the investment model, UK Sport is providing lottery funding of £10.5 million to the EIS for this and for each of the next two financial years. In addition, UK Sport has confirmed to Summer Olympic sports a guideline figure to be spent on sports science and sports medicine (SS/SM) services. The guideline figure provided to each sport is shown in the

following table. It is up to the individual sport in conjunction with UK Sport to agree the exact amount invested into SS/SM services. It is important to recognise that sports can purchase additional SS/SM services at any time and therefore there is no cut-off point when a sport will stop purchasing extra support.

Sport	*Guideline figure 2006-09 (£)*
Archery	393,000
Athletics	2,809,000
Badminton	1,147,000
Basketball	704,000
Boxing	781,000
Canoeing	1,801,000
Cycling	2,890,000
Diving	753,000
Equestrian	1,606,000
Fencing	448,000
Gymnastics	1,215,000
Handball	528,000
Hockey	1,520,000
Judo	927,000
Modern Pentathlon	786,000
Rowing	3,235,000
Sailing	2,887,000
Shooting	790,500
Swimming	2,476,000
Synchronised Swimming	285,000
Table Tennis	378,000
Taekwondo	389,000
Triathlon	661,000
Volleyball	704,000
Water Polo	564,000
Weightlifting	239,000
Wrestling	318,000
Total	31,334,000

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has for the use of the shooting ranges' site at Woolwich following the 2012 London Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [128140]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Delivery Authority, the body responsible for constructing Games facilities, and the London 2012 Organising Committee venues team, are looking carefully at the post Games use of all proposed facilities being developed for the shooting competitions at Woolwich.

The Government are working hard with our other London 2012 stakeholders to ensure a lasting legacy for all Olympic and Paralympic sports, including shooting, in terms of facilities, increased exposure and increased participation, for London and the UK as a whole.

Olympic Games: Investment

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1675W, on Olympic Games: investment, if she will break down the figures by Olympic and Paralympic sports; and what the reasons are for the difference from the figure of £215.4 million quoted in UK Sport's Guide to World Class Pathway, Summer Olympic and Paralympic Investment 2006-09. [127948]

Mr. Caborn: The breakdown of the Olympic and Paralympic investment is shown in the following table.

	£
Olympic	
Archery	2,371,000
Athletics	20,377,000
Badminton	6,953,000
Basketball	3,990,000
Boxing	4,660,000
Canoeing	10,789,000
Cycling	17,494,000
Diving	4,586,000
Equestrian	9,618,000
Fencing	2,719,000
Gymnastics	7,253,000
Handball	2,986,000
Hockey	8,573,000
Judo	5,483,000
Modern Pentathlon	4,658,000
Rowing	20,049,000
Sailing	17,194,000
Shooting	4,817,000
Swimming	16,699,000
Synchro Swimming	1,617,000
Table Tennis	2,219,000
Taekwondo	2,284,000
Triathlon	3,897,000
Volleyball	4,040,000
Water Polo	3,133,000
Weightlifting	1,437,000
Wrestling	1,991,000
Total	191,897,000
Paralympic	
Archery	1,043,200
Athletics	4,458,400
Basketball—Men	1,897,600
Basketball—Women	201,600
Boccia	573,400
Cycling	1,487,400
Equestrian	1,928,500
Fencing	307,700
Football—CP	99,300
Football—5-a-side	70,900
Goalball—Men	57,500
Goalball—Women	57,500
Judo	607,400
Powerlifting	610,200
Rowing	1,303,900
Sailing	1,074,000
Shooting	501,000
Swimming	5,713,300
Table Tennis	779,300
Volleyball—Men	115,100
Volleyball—Women	115,100
Wheelchair Rugby	822,900
Wheelchair Tennis	669,000
Total	24,494,200
Grand Total	216,391,200

Since the original Pathway Investment figure was quoted, there has been an additional £1 million investment made into Paralympic sport which explains why the latest total is now £216.4 million.

The reason why there is a difference from the original quoted figure of £215.4 million and the figure of £250.2 million quoted in the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1675W, is due to the fact that the original figure only referred to funding linked directly to the sports. It does not include the total funding allocated to support the Performance Pathway. For example, UK Sport is investing additional resources into the following areas: research and innovation, increased athlete medical support, funding to support the British Paralympic Association and operational costs to support the English Institute of Sport (EIS).

VisitBritain: Standards

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has set targets for VisitBritain; and if she will make a statement. [127515]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS set targets for VisitBritain on return on grant in aid investment, regional and seasonal spread, and key areas of consumer engagement. These are set out in the Funding Agreement between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and VisitBritain 2005-06 to 2007-08, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Visual Arts: Sales

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the merits of giving priority to private domestic buyers over foreign institutions open to the public in purchasing artworks proposed for export. [128174]

Mr. Lammy: In 1996, the then Secretary of State consulted on whether any specific conditions should be attached to offers to purchase export deferred items made by private buyers. As a result of that consultation, it was decided that an owner's refusal to accept such an offer from a private buyer should lead to an export licence being refused only if the private buyer is able to guarantee reasonable public access and satisfactory conservation conditions for the art work. This remains the position. If an individual refuses an offer where such assurances have been provided, the licence application will normally be refused.

Works of Art: Valuation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she has taken to ensure that proposed sales and valuations of works of art subject to examination by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art are genuine. [128259]

Mr. Lammy: When making a decision on whether a valuation is acceptable, I ensure that sufficient information has been provided to justify it. The Reviewing Committee is vigilant in requiring such information and will not recommend a fair matching price unless satisfied it has been properly justified. In a number of cases where the Committee has not been satisfied with the justification for the valuation, it has recommended that I obtain an independent valuation and I have done so.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Land

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the process of the registration of land of all administrative units and the registration of titles was completed for all major urban areas in Afghanistan by the end of 2010 in accordance with the target of the London Compact of 2006; whether he expects the process to have been completed for all other areas by the end of 2008; and what further progress he expects to be made towards these targets by the end of 2007. [127528]

Hilary Benn: The Government of Afghanistan has revised its benchmark on land registration and titling, which now reads as follows:

> "a process for registration of land in all administrative units and the registration of land titles will be started for all major urban areas by end-2006 and all other areas by end-2008. A fair system for settlement of land disputes will be in place by end-2007. Registration for rural land will be under way by end-2007".

The revised end-2006 benchmarks for registration of land and land titles in all urban areas have not been met. However, a number of steps have been taken as follows:

A white paper on formalisation of informal property rights was prepared and approved by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). The recommendations made by the White Paper have been updated and incorporated in the draft land policy;

A property rights certification process has been piloted in two districts of Kabul, prior to the formalisation of land tenure;

The land register and survey that defines or re-establishes boundaries of public and/or private land for purposes of ownership and taxation is being modernised;

A Land Information System database has been established in Kabul, in collaboration with key stakeholders;

The Supreme Court has agreed to simplify the process for property transfer; and

The property archives in 15 out of 34 provinces have been reorganised and staff have been retrained in document management and security.

Looking forward, the Government of Afghanistan has committed to approving a comprehensive land policy by April 2007. This will provide guidance on dealing with crucial issues such as land grabbing, informal development, and the allocation and management of land. The Government has also committed to drafting the legislation needed to clarify and then improve the land tenure security of urban residents by April 2007. Finally, the Government has renewed its commitment to reform the system for settlement of land disputes, and improve registration of rural land by the end of 2007.

Departments: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contracts were awarded by his Department to private military security companies for work in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* other countries in each of the last five years; what the (i) value and (ii) purpose was of each such contract; and if he will make a statement. [127015]

Hilary Benn: DFID engages private security companies to provide security of our staff in high threat environments. ArmorGroup, Control Risks Group (CRG), and Kroll, have provided mobile security for DFID staff, consultants and static guarding for our compounds in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since June 2004, DFID's security needs in Iraq have been met by contracts managed and administered by the FCO. The following costs have been incurred by DFID:

	Cost to DFID (£ million)
2003-04	[1]5
2004-05	14.2
2005-06	12.9
2006-07	6.1
Total	38.2

[1] DFID contract.

The Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) Iraq Strategy also has significant programme spend on police/prison reform elements of police capacity building programme contracted to ArmorGroup who utilise both CRG and military (escorts) to provide security for their personnel.

In Afghanistan, DFID has awarded a number of contracts to ArmorGroup for armed protection of the main DFID office and residential compounds. These contracts also provide close protection (armed bodyguards) to staff when travelling to locations in Afghanistan deemed medium/high risk, and defensive driving training to our locally employed drivers. The value of this contract from June 2004 to December 2006 was £3,217,691. Since January 2007, DFID's security needs have been met through a contract issued by the FCO.

Many of our overseas offices have contracts with local private security companies to guard residential properties. Each office would need to be contacted to provide details of the companies used and the value of each security contract. To obtain this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage the composition of parliaments in developing countries to reflect the population of those countries in terms of *(a)* gender, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* religious belief and *(d)* sexuality; and if he will make a statement. [127441]

Hilary Benn: As part of its commitment to promoting good governance, DFID works to strengthen the parliaments of developing countries. What we do is different in different countries, depending on our assessment of what the priorities are. In some places we will focus more on the legislative function of parliaments, for instance, while in others our efforts will be channelled more towards strengthening oversight of the executive.

Representation is of course a core function of parliaments everywhere, and DFID recognises that a representative parliament has a head start on this.

One of the initiatives DFID has supported recently to improve representativeness is the High Level Committee on Reservations which has developed recommendations for affirmative action for women and dalits in the political structures of Nepal. Another group we have supported is the Forum des Femmes Rwandaises Parliamentaires (FFRP). The FFRP comprises all the women members of the Rwandan Parliament—and at 48.8 per cent. Rwanda has the highest female representation in the world. Our most recent support to the FFRP funded a conference on 22 and 23 February that celebrated the progress made towards gender equality in Rwanda. It also produced the "Kigali Declaration", that will add vitality to the efforts of other African countries to get more women into Parliament—following Rwanda's example.

As we increase our focus on accountable, responsive governance, DFID will support more groups like Nepal's Reservations Committee and the FFRP—not only to get disadvantaged groups into parliaments, but to ensure they function effectively once there.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information is collected by his Department on the extent to which national parliaments of developing countries are representative of their populations in terms of *(a)* gender, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* religious belief and *(d)* sexuality. [127442]

Hilary Benn: The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments is an indicator used to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goal to promote gender equality and empower women. The number of women in parliaments is also one of the governance indicators included in the new Country Governance Analysis (CGA) that is now a mandatory component of DFID's Country Assistance Planning process. DFID tracks progress on the gender composition of parliaments using data compiled by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Information on the composition of national parliaments by ethnicity, religion and sexuality is not as easy to find. I am not aware of any international initiative to gather this information systematically. Where it is available—for one or more of these categories in particular parliaments—it is likely that our country offices hold this information, but it is not gathered and stored by DFID centrally.

Developing Countries: Poverty

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response he has made to the National Audit Office report Tackling Rural Poverty in Developing Countries; and if he will make a statement. [128470]

Mr. Thomas: DFID welcomes the report and is pleased that the NAO has recognised DFID's achievements in providing help to rural communities. The Public Accounts Committee will hold a hearing on the report on 4 June. DFID is studying the detailed analysis and recommendations in the report and is preparing to respond to the PAC.

Overseas Aid: Corruption

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of corruption in British companies upon the effectiveness of good governance initiatives in the developing world; [126938]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of corruption in British companies upon the achievement of development objectives overseas. [126929]

Hilary Benn: At a global level the World Bank Institute estimates that US$1 trillion plus or minus 40 per cent. is paid in bribes every year, representing 3 per cent. of the world's gross domestic product. No firm estimates exist on how this issue affects UK business specifically. The obstacles to measuring corruption scientifically have led to the measurement of perceptions.

Transparency International's Bribe-payers Index (BPI) aims to evaluate the supply side of corruption by asking business experts in emerging economies for their impressions of the likelihood that companies from the listed countries pay or offer bribes in their business activities. The highest ranked country is the one whose companies are seen as least likely to pay bribes. The UK is ranked 6th out of 30 countries, the 2nd G7 country and 3rd EU country in the table. But the UK is not complacent because, as the UK White Paper on Eliminating World Poverty recognises, 'Corruption undermines the accountability of political leaders and officials to their citizens. When politicians are 'bought' by powerful people or businesses through bribery, or when leaders themselves use personal or public funds to buy support, they become representatives of the few and not the many. In short, corruption is both a cause and a symptom of bad governance.' Any such impact will undermine work to promote good governance and reduce poverty in developing countries.

Slavery

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to tackle modern slavery. [127999]

Mr. Thomas: DFID supports long-term development programmes to tackle the poverty and social exclusion that make people vulnerable to modern slavery.

The UK is also a major supporter of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and its Special Action Programme on Forced Labour (SAP-FL). We will provide core funding of almost £2 million to SAP-FL over the next three years, in addition to support to individual country programmes.

Last month DFID published a booklet, "Breaking the Chains: Eliminating slavery, ending poverty". It highlights the link between the fight against slavery and poverty and some of the work the UK is supporting through the ILO and other organisations.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent discussions the Government have had with President Rajapakse on aid to the Tamil people of north-east Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement; [128030]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches the people of north-east Sri Lanka following the blocking of the main road route into the area; and if he will make a statement. [127987]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 7 March. My hon. Friend, the Minister for the Middle East met the Sri Lankan President on 15 February. At these meetings we discussed the impact of the conflict on civilians of all ethnic groups and how the UK could best assist progress towards a settlement of Sri Lanka's tragic conflict.

In September 2006 DFID gave US$1 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN for immediate humanitarian assistance. We are considering how to respond to the UN's latest request for funding to its 2007 Common Humanitarian Action Plan.

World Bank

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department contributed to the World Bank's Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility in each of the last five years; [126124]

(2) if he will make a statement on the World Bank's Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility. [126125]

Hilary Benn: Although the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) is not a World Bank fund, it is housed in the World Bank offices in Washington. It is a good example of donors successfully working together in development. The World Bank is one of 14 PPIAF donors.

DFID has supported PPIAF over three phases since 1999. Our total commitment to PPIAF from 1999 to 2008 is £53 million. DFID provided the following funding to PPIAF over the last five financial years.

	Amount (£)
2005-06	2,804,781
2004-05	6,525,733
2003-04	7,179,905
2002-03	8,209,761
2001-02	3,598,848

Where developing country Governments do not have the capacity to provide good quality infrastructure and services for their people, PPIAF helps them to develop sound policies, regulations and institutions. PPIAF does

this by providing developing country Governments with technical assistance which they can use to tap the full potential of public private partnerships in infrastructure. PPIAF also identifies, communicates and promotes best practice on matters relating to public private partnerships in infrastructure. It is also recognised as a leading resource for training and best practice in the role of public private partnerships in infrastructure service delivery.

There are may examples of PPIAF's success. For example Kenya PPIAF provided technical assistance and training to enable micro-credit banks to lend to small water providers to provide clean water to rural and semi-urban communities. This has led to 21 micro-credit investments and an output based grant which will result in 60,000 people gaining access to clean water.

Also in Ghana, PPIAF supported the Ghana Community Water and Sanitation Agency with regulatory and legal reform to improve small town water services. This has allowed local water operators to provide clean water to communities for the first time. Communities themselves were involved in the selection of the water providers. This has been successfully implemented in three towns and will be extended to 300 small towns across the country.

After the war in 2002, the Government of Afghanistan recognised that they needed to expand telecommunications access and improve service delivery. They encouraged private mobile phone operators into their market, and asked the PPIAF to help them develop the initial regulatory framework and build the Government's own capacity and understanding of technical, commercial and regulatory issues. Today, where once there were only two telephones for every 1,000 people, there are now more than 1 million mobile phone subscribers with national and global access, and prices have declined by 70 per cent. through competition. This allows a journalist in Kabul to host a phone-in radio programme providing counselling to women, and helps small scale businesses like carpet merchants, brick sellers and mechanics to manage their businesses effectively and successfully.

An independent strategic review of PPIAF in 2004 and internal DFID reviews have concluded that PPIAF is successful in what it does. Specifically, it has helped developing country Governments' capacity to improve their policies, laws, regulations and procedures that have resulted in better infrastructure and better services for their people. The PPIAF has also been recognised as a centre of excellence for advice to developing countries on public private partnerships, and there is high demand for PPIAF's services.

Further information about the PPIAF and its successes can be found in the document entitled 'Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF): Helping developing countries to eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable development through Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure', copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Refuges

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was allocated by his Department in each of the last three years towards providing shelters and other emergency accommodation for those affected by domestic violence. [128182]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is shown in the following table.

The 'supporting people funding' provided by the Housing Executive for accommodation and support services for those affected by domestic violence

£

	2004-07[1]	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Accommodation-based	8,219,866.54	2,809,610.44	2,739,370.18	2,670,885.92
Floating support services	2,421,522.90	827,694.22	807,001.86	786,826.82
Total	10,641,389.44	3,637,304.66	3,546,372.04	3,457,712.74

[1] Three year total

The total amount of housing benefit paid with respect to such accommodation over the last three financial years was £1,003,636.62. This is in addition to the figures detailed above.

In the current financial year £676.439 in housing association grant has been allocated for the provision of accommodation to go on site this year.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs at what time and at what location on 14 August 2003 the resumed inquest into the death of Dr. David Kelly took place. [126379]

Ms Harman: I am informed by the Oxfordshire coroner that the resumed inquest into the death of Dr. David Kelly took place at approximately 10 am in the Old Assize court at County Hall Oxford.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the resumed inquest on 14 August 2003 into the death of Dr. David Kelly was a public hearing; who was given prior notification of the intention to hold this hearing; and on what date that notification was given. [126380]

Ms Harman: I am informed by the Oxfordshire coroner that the resumed inquest into the death of Dr. David Kelly was held in public on 14 August 2003. Notification was given to the interested persons and the press by telephone shortly beforehand.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the statutory basis was on which the Lord Chancellor asked the Oxfordshire coroner, in a letter dated 12 August 2003, to *(a)* keep the proceedings relating to the inquest into the death of Dr. David Kelly as short as possible and *(b)* take the evidence in writing. [126381]

Ms Harman: In his private secretary's letter of 12 August 2003 the Lord Chancellor required the Oxfordshire coroner to adjourn the Kelly inquest in accordance with section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988. He also requested that the coroner keep the proceedings as short as possible and, as far as the Coroners Rules allowed, to take the evidence in writing. There was no statutory basis for these requests.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the compliance by the Oxfordshire coroner, in his consideration of the death of Dr. David Kelly, with the requirements of Rule 37 of the Coroners' Code, with particular reference to *(a)* the likelihood of documentary evidence being disputed and *(b)* the issuing of a public announcement relating to the admission of documentary evidence. [126382]

Ms Harman: The coroner is an independent judicial officer. I do not comment on such decisions which are made in the coroner's judicial capacity.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126794]

Vera Baird: It is part of standard pre-employment checks at recruitment stage to ensure that staff applying to be employed within the Department for Constitutional Affairs and its agencies are eligible to work in the civil service and meet the civil service nationality rules. Individuals who require a work permit may be employed in the civil service, but only in exceptional circumstances. Under TUPE terms staff from the 42 former Magistrates Courts Committees, each of which has separate terms and conditions, are exempt from civil service nationality rules. Information on how many work permits have been applied for in each of the last five years is not held centrally. To calculate the precise number of work permits applied for would incur disproportionate cost to the Department and its agencies.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the Immigration Appeal Tribunal has sent the decision papers on cases VA/08797/2006, VA/08788/2006 and VA/08793/2006 in which the Immigration Judge ruled on 6 October 2006 to *(a)* the Home Department and *(b)* HM High Commission, Islamabad. [127754]

Bridget Prentice: Information shows that the Immigration Judge determinations for appeal references VA/08797/2006, VA/08788/2006 and VA/08793/2006 were served upon the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) of the Home Office on 16 October 2006.

In Entry Clearance and Family Visitor appeals the determination is served upon IND, which will arrange for the forwarding of the determination to the entry clearance post that made the original refusal. Checks of the UK Visas database show that the determinations were received at HM High Commission in Islamabad on 9 November 2006.

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average time was between submission of appeals against refusal of incapacity benefit and a decision being taken in each of the last three years. [127722]

Vera Baird: The information my hon. Friend has asked for is contained in the following table.

IB cleared appeals March 2003 to April 2006: Average clearance time from lodged to first hearing

Financial year	*Weeks Average clearance time*
2003-04	20.24
2004-05	19.48
2005-06	19.19

Notes:
1. All figures are subject to change as more up to date data become available.
2. Figures for the latest months may increase substantially as information feeds through to the Appeals Service.
3. Migration of customer records from the existing Generic appeals processing systems (GAPS) to the new G2 system commenced on the 5 June 2006. Consequently during the migration period information from GAPS will over time diminish while G2 will increase and statistical data after May 2006 will not available until the new data processing procedures are in place.
4. "Lodged" denotes when an appeal is submitted to the first tier agency. Lodged data only enter the GAPS database when the appeal reaches the Appeals Service

Source:
100 per cent. download of the generic appeals processing system.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many appeals against refusal of incapacity benefit have been received in each of the last 12 months; and what the range of dates of submission was of the appeals that were considered in February 2002. [127723]

Vera Baird: The information my hon. Friend has asked for is not available in the format requested as data are not collated on the ranges of dates of appeal submissions that reach a tribunal hearing. At present, data can only be supplied up to the period March 2006 due to the change over of computer systems.

The following table, therefore, provides information on the number of appeals against the refusal of incapacity benefit received in each of the 12 months between April 2005 and March 2006.

All incapacity benefit appeals in 2005-06

	Lodged	*Received*
2005		
April	5,490	4,710
May	5,500	4,860
June	5,660	5,960
July	5,090	5,700
August	5,440	5,540
September	5,110	5,260
October	4,800	5,270
November	5,440	5,780
December	4,790	4,140
2006		
January	4,890	5,410
February	5,440	5,030
March	6,690	5,980
2005-06	64,320	63,650

Notes:
1. All figures are subject to change as more up to date data become available.
2. Figures for the latest months may increase substantially as information feeds through to the Appeals Service.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
5. Migration of customer records from the existing generic appeals processing systems (GAPS) to the new G2 system commenced on the 5 June 2006. Consequently data after May 2006 are not available until the data from G2 are processed.
6. "Lodged" denotes when an appeal is submitted to the first tier agency. Lodged data only enter the GAPS database when the appeal reaches the Appeals Service.
7. "Received" denotes the number of appeals registered at the Appeals Service

Source:
100 per cent. download of the generic appeals processing system.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Departments: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what databases are controlled by the National Audit Office; and what percentage of data in each database is estimated to be inaccurate or out of date. [124044]

Alan Williams: The National Audit Office maintains databases principally for the purposes of collecting internal management information. Its management information is updated on a regular basis and the Office has quality assurance arrangements to ensure that it remains reliable and up to date.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many work permits were applied for by the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last five years. [127725]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. Information is provided for the Cabinet Office as a whole.

The Cabinet Office does not apply for work permits, but as part of our pre-appointment checks we require a candidate to have a work permit, where appropriate, in order to be employed by the Cabinet Office.

PRIME MINISTER

Africa: Foreign Relations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of appointing a Minister for Africa in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with *(a)* responsibility for improving relations with African countries and *(b)* analogous responsibilities to the Minister for Europe. [128552]

The Prime Minister: While my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has overall responsibility for Foreign Policy, day-to-day responsibility for the UK's relationship with Africa lies with my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham. There are no current plans to review these ministerial responsibilities.

Members: Telephone Tapping

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether the Wilson Doctrine applies to hon. Members who have not taken the oath; [128884]

(2) what plans he has to amend or repeal the Wilson Doctrine; [128885]

(3) whether the Wilson Doctrine applies to the use of the ECHELON by the UKUSA Community. [128886]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to my written ministerial statement of 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 95WS.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arab States

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when a Minister in his Department last visited *(a)* Bahrain, *(b)* Kuwait, *(c)* Oman, *(d)* Qatar, *(e)* Saudi Arabia, *(f)* the United Arab Emirates and *(g)* Yemen on (i) a trade promotion visit and (ii) a visit in connection with other departmental responsibilities. [124806]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 2 March 2007]*: The most recent visits by Ministers are as follows:

	Visits
(a) Bahrain	January 2001
(b) Kuwait	June 2003
(c) Oman	No visits
(d) Qatar	April 2006
(e) Saudi Arabia	November 2003
(f) United Arab Emirates	June 2003
(g) Yemen	No visits

Visits cover both trade promotion and other Departmental responsibilities.

Broadband

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to ensure that all UK households have access to telecoms infrastructure capable of providing *(a)* broadband as defined by Ofcom, *(b)* at least 512 kbit/s and *(c)* over 1.5 Mbits/s; and if he will make a statement. [124446]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* At the present time there is no Universal Service Obligation (USO) in relation to broadband. Thus, there is no absolute obligation to supply broadband, of any speed, at all.

The latest Ofcom figures reveal that Broadband is, however, available to over 99 per cent. of UK households. 37 per cent. of households can choose between four wholesale broadband providers, 8 per cent. can choose between three wholesales providers, 12 per cent. between two wholesale providers and the remainder can access a BT wholesale offering.

At the retail level consumers have access to a very wide choice of retail broadband products provided by over 60 Internet Service Providers currently operating in the UK.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of telephone lines in *(a)* England, *(b)* Cheltenham Borough Council area and *(c)* Springbank ward in Cheltenham that are able to support broadband; what definition he uses of broadband; and if he will make a statement. [124447]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* In the UK, over 99.9 per cent. of households are connected to a broadband enabled exchange.

However, not all of these households will necessarily be able to get broadband and there are two main reasons for this:

1. there could be fibre in the network between the exchange and the household

2. the telephone line could be too long to support broadband.

It is difficult to be precise about the number of UK households that are able to receive a broadband service over the telephone line, but the figure of 99 per cent. probably represents a lower bound.

It is not possible to provide data of this sort at a more local level.

The definition of broadband that Ofcom uses in its economic market assessments is that it must have the following three characteristics:

the service is always on, i.e. no dial up is required. This feature allows the user to maintain a permanent connection to the network so allowing real-time delivery of services such as email;

it is possible to use both voice and data services simultaneously, whether they are provided together, for example over the same access route, or separately, perhaps using more than one access route; and

it has a faster downstream speed than a dial-up connection (essentially >128kbit/s).

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK households which have access to *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more broadband suppliers; and if he will make a statement. [124448]

Margaret Hodge: While BT has rolled out broadband to over 99 per cent. of UK households, cable and Local Loop Unbundling operators have so far only rolled out broadband in certain parts of the UK. Thus, different areas in the UK are supplied by a different 'mix' of wholesale providers. The latest figures available to Ofcom are as follows:

Percentage of UK households with only one (BT) wholesale broadband provider—42 per cent.

Percentage of UK households with only two wholesale broadband providers—12 per cent.

Percentage of UK households with only three wholesale broadband providers—7 per cent.

Percentage of UK households with four or more wholesale broadband providers—37 per cent.

It should be noted that broadband rollout, particularly based on LLU, is currently ongoing and therefore the coverage numbers presented here should be seen as a snap shot in time. This is a dynamic market and it is likely to look very different in a year from now.

Business Support

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* business support schemes and *(b)* services to small businesses in each year since 2000. [117362]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 22 January 2007]:* In answer to *(a)*, DTI has spent the following amounts on business support schemes since 2000:

Business support schemes

	£ million
2000-01	279
2001-02	461
2002-03	414
2003-04	317
2004-05	312
2005-06	381

Note:
DTI commenced the detailed tracking of the cost of specific business support schemes on a consistent basis from the 2003-04 financial year onwards. Therefore the information provided for earlier years is a best estimate.

In answer to *(b)* DTI has spent the following amounts on services to small businesses—via the business link network—since 2000:

Business link network

	£ million
2000-01	172
2001-02	141
2002-03	150
2003-04	138
2004-05	140
2005-06	144

Note:
The business link network provides advice and support to c. 700,000 small businesses every year, at start up and growth stages, with the quality and reach of that advice increasing all the time.

Business: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 945W, on business assistance in Cumbria, how many of the businesses assisted by Business Link in Cumbria received assistance *(a)* electronically, *(b)* by telephone, *(c)* in writing and *(d)* through face to face interviews. [127255]

Margaret Hodge: The following number of businesses were assisted in Cumbria by Business Link:

	Total businesses assisted	*Electronically*	*By telephone*	*In writing*	*Face to face*
2001-2002	5,933	450	5,933	304	780
2002-2003	5,552	720	5,552	333	722
2003-2004	4,961	750	3,546	253	1,140
2004-2005	5,058	4,325	2,400	307	1,043
2005-2006	8,453	8,453	4,378	411	971

On many occasions one business may have been assisted through more than one method of communication.

Businesses: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Consumer Credit Regulations 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126654]

Mr. McCartney: The Regulatory Impact Assessments published alongside the regulations in 2004 estimated the costs to business as:

Regulation	*£ million One-off cost*	*£ million Recurring cost*
Consumer Credit Act 1974 (Electronic Agreements) Order 2004	0	0
Consumer Credit (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2004 Consumer Credit (Agreements) (Amendment) Regulations 2004	163.4	[1]—
Consumer Credit (Early Settlement) Regulations 2004	180	[2]2

[1] Small unqualified increase in printing costs due to increased volume of information for consumers. [2] +60 transfer to consumers as a result of fairer early settlement terms.

These costs were offset by estimated benefits of £312 million a year (including the £60 million transfer to consumers through fairer early settlement terms).

Costs to the regulators were expected to be limited to the cost of training staff in the new requirements.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* ongoing costs of implementing the Employment Relations Act 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators; [126660]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* ongoing costs of implementing the Directive to Establish a General Framework for Informing and Consulting Employees in the UK to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126661]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI is totally committed to better regulation. On 11 December it published an ambitious Simplification Plan to reduce administrative burdens by 25 per cent. per year by 2010. The plan is a key part of an ongoing commitment to reducing unnecessary red tape and to making essential regulation simpler and more streamlined.

Details in respect of these two questions are set out as follows:

126660

The Employment Relations Act 2004

The full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Employment Relations Act 2004 can be found from page 132 in the DTI publication "Employment Relations Research series No. 41: 2004 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments" URN 05/1018

126661

The Directive to Establish a General Framework for Informing and Consulting Employees in the UK

The full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the 2004 regulations to establish a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the UK can be found from page 91 in the DTI publication "Employment Relations Research Series No. 41: 2004 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments", URN 05/1018.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Sale and Supply of Goods to Consumers Regulations 2002 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126667]

Mr. McCartney: The Regulatory Impact Assessment published in 2002 contains estimates of the cost to businesses of implementing the Sale and Supply of Goods to Consumers Regulations 2002 at some 3 per cent.—10 per cent. of turnover, implying costs in the range of around £3 million to £10 million. The Department has no information on costs to the Office of Fair Trading.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126668]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

(i) The cost to business of implementing the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations

2004 was estimated to be £29 million over 10 years with an additional £16.2 million to £69 million one-off costs in the first year of compliance.

These figures should be considered against the benefits of reducing the risks from hazardous substances. While total benefits could not be quantified, the value of the expected reduction in allergic contact dermatitis because of chromium VI restrictions was estimated at £18 million to £53 million over 10 years.

(ii) Costs to the health and safety regulators were not quantified but were considered to be small, with the majority of costs being incurred in the development of guidance and being balanced out by savings in enforcement. The information in this reply was drawn from the final Regulatory Impact Assessment for the legislation that is available in the Library or on the HSE website at http://www.hse.gov.uk/ria/index.htm

The Government and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are committed to meeting the Better Regulations challenge. HSE is constantly reviewing what can be done better to ensure that the right balance is struck between protecting people at work and avoiding unnecessary burdens on business. Reviewing and improving the guidance to help employers comply with COSHH is one of the aims in HSE's simplification plan.

Chlorofluorocarbons

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to phase out the remaining specialised uses of chlorofluorocarbons in the UK as required under the 1987 Montreal Protocol. [126719]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of State, Department of Health, the hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint), on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 307W, on essential uses of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and replacement of CFC-based asthma inhalers.

Under the Montreal protocol and related EC legislation, essential use exemptions are also available for laboratory and analytical uses of CFCs. Two UK companies have been allocated small amounts of CFCs for these purposes in 2007.

The European Commission may also authorise temporary exemptions for CFCs in existing military applications until 31 December 2008, where it can be demonstrated that technically and economically feasible alternative substances or technologies are not available or cannot be used. There is some limited use of CFCs for these purposes in the UK.

The European Commission has begun a wide-ranging review of EC Regulation 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer, in consultation with member states and stakeholders, including the continuing need for essential use exemptions.

Departments: BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many employees of BAE Systems employees are registered on his Department's security pass system; if he will list those people; and on what date each was registered. [128395]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The details of two BAE employees previously holding DTI security passes are held on the Department's pass system, although these registrations are in fact expired and no current passes have been issued. The registrations were dated 4 November 2004 and 6 June 2005. I am unable to list the details without permission of the individuals in question.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on how many occasions special advisers have been consulted in replying to freedom of information requests to his Department; and what his Department's policy is on the role of special advisers in the answering of freedom of information requests. [119846]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI does not keep such records. Special advisers carry out their duties in accordance with the requirements of the 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers'.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128003]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's policy is to use recycled paper. Aligned to this policy, all paper procured through the Department's framework contract is recycled. The Department has an electronic filing system and paper filing is only used where necessary. In addition to this, the departmental printers are configured to print double sided to save paper.

Departments: Regeneration

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of his Department's spending was devoted to *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural regeneration and redevelopment in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [125889]

Margaret Hodge: The Government are committed to building a strong economy in rural and urban areas. The Department's own products are available in both rural and urban areas. However, to provide a breakdown of the spend as requested could be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

Employment: Foreign Investment in the UK

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of additional jobs created by foreign direct investment into the UK in each year since 2000. [124537]

Mr. McCartney: Cumulatively, over the period 2000-01 and 2005-06, inward Foreign Direct Investment projects in the UK reported the creation of 239,103 new jobs and 221,001 jobs safeguarded.

No data on net additional UK jobs are available, but as there is good evidence that inward Foreign Direct Investment makes a strong contribution to the productivity and competitiveness of the UK economy, the overall impact on UK employment is expected to be positive.

Employment: Regulation

Tony Baldry: (1) To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Employment Relations Act 1999 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators; [125593]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Transnational Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 1999 (European Works Councils) to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators; [125595]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Working Time Regulations 1999 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators; [125598]

(4) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Employment Act 2002 to (i) businesses and (ii) his Department; [125601]

(5) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Part-Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators; [125613]

(6) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Maternity and Parental Leave (Amendment) Regulations 2001 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators; [125616]

(7) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Flexible Working (Procedural Requirements) Regulations 2002 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125589]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI is totally committed to better regulation. On 11 December it published an ambitious Simplification Plan to reduce administrative burdens by 25 per cent. per year by 2010. The plan is a key part of an ongoing commitment to reducing unnecessary red tape and to making essential regulation simpler and more streamlined.

Details in respect of these seven questions are set out as follows:

125593

The Employment Relations Act

The full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Employment Relations Bill 1999 can be found from page 30 in the DTI publication "Employment Relations Research Series No. 53: 1999 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments", URN 06/955. (Figures are in 1998 prices).

125595

The Transnational Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 1999 (European Works Councils)

The full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Transnational Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 1999 can be found from page 174 in the DTI publication "Employment Relations Research Series No. 53: 1999 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments", URN 06/955. (Figures are in 1999 prices).

125598

The Working Time Regulations 1999

The full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Working Time Regulations 1999 can be found from page 117 in the DTI publication "Employment Relations Research Series No. 53: 1999 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments", URN 06/955.

125601

The Employment Act 2002

An assessment of the costs and benefits of the different legislation contained within the Employment Act 2002 can be found in the following DTI publications: "Employment Relations Research Series No. 40: 2002 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments", URN 05/582; "Employment Relations Research Series No. 28: 2003 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments", URN 04/743; and "Employment Relations Research Series No. 44: Employment Relations Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2005", URN 05/1019.

125613

The Part-Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000

The full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Part-Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 can be found from page 1 in the DTI publication "Employment Relations Research Series No. 60: 2000 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments" URN 06/1164.

125616

The Maternity and Parental Leave (Amendment) Regulations 2001

The full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Parental Leave Regulations: changes to extend entitlement can be found from page 112 in the DTI publication "Employment Relations Research Series No. 52: 2001 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments", URN 06/927. The costs in part A of the RIA, associated with extending parental leave entitlements to all parents of children under five as at December 1999, no longer apply. The costs in part B of the RIA associated with providing additional leave for the parents of disabled children are ongoing.

125589

The Flexible Working (Procedural Requirements) Regulations 2002

The full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Flexible Working (Procedural Requirements) Regulations 2002 can be found in the DTI publication "Employment Relations Research Series No. 40: 2002 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments", URN 05/582.

Energy Technologies Institute

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the timetable is for the establishment of the Energy Technologies Institute; and if he will make a statement. [127260]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry published the prospectus for the Energy Technologies Institute on 14 September last year. It envisaged that the institute would be legally established and fully operational in 2008, with 50:50 public/private sector funding. The initial four private sector partners (BP, EON UK, EDF

and Shell) have so far been joined by Rolls Royce and Caterpillar, and Scottish and Southern Electricity, and discussions are continuing with other organisations. The institute will be legally incorporated and the director appointed over the next few months. The first technical programmes and the organisation to host the institute hub should be identified in the summer.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what meetings *(a)* he has and *(b)* his officials have had with (i) private and (ii) public sector organisations on the Energy Technologies Institute. [127261]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry published the prospectus for the Energy Technologies Institute on 14 September last year. It envisaged that the Institute would be legally established and fully operational in 2008, with 50:50 public/private sector funding. The initial four private sector partners (BP, EON UK, EDF and Shell) have so far been joined by Rolls Royce and Caterpillar, and Scottish and Southern Electricity, and discussions are continuing with other organisations. The institute will be legally incorporated and the Director appointed over the next few months. The first technical programmes and the organisation to host the institute hub should be identified in the summer.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what expressions of interest in *(a)* hosting and *(b)* managing the Energy Technologies Institute he has received from (i) private and (ii) public sector organisations. [127866]

Malcolm Wicks: Research organisations across the UK were invited in January to provide information on energy related research capacity, capabilities and resources and to indicate any interest in hosting the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) director and support staff. Over 20 of the submissions received offered to host the director and support staff. Most of these bids are either from academic institutions or from consortiums lead by them. The submissions are being considered by representatives of the funding partners who will prepare initial advice for the ETI Board (once legally established) and director (once appointed) to consider in detail and to follow-up as appropriate. Decisions will be a matter for the ETI itself.

The initial four private sector partners (BP, EON UK, EDF and Shell) have so far been joined by Rolls Royce and Caterpillar, and Scottish and Southern Electricity, and discussions are continuing with other organisations. The institute will be legally incorporated and the director appointed over the next few months. The first technical programmes and the organisation to host the institute hub should be identified in the summer.

Energy: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the merits of locating the energy technologies institute in the West Midlands. [126732]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Research organisations across the UK were invited in January to provide information on research capacity and capabilities and to indicate any interest in hosting the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) Director and support staff. Submissions are being considered by representatives of the funding partners who will prepare initial advice for the ETI Board (once legally established) and Director (once appointed) to consider in detail and to follow-up as appropriate. Decisions will be a matter for the ETI itself. The Institute will operate on a "distributed" basis. A number of submissions have been received that include organisations in the West Midlands.

Equity

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in what percentage of companies' private equity groups own over 50 per cent. of shares in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East region and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [124228]

Mr. McCartney: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Exports: Algeria

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value of exports to Algeria was in 2006. [126980]

Mr. McCartney: UK exports of goods to Algeria were worth about £167 million in 2006 on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Figures for trade in services with Algeria are not available.

Exports: Namibia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value of UK exports was to Namibia in *(a)* 1991, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [126989]

Mr. McCartney: UK exports of goods to Namibia were worth about £4.0 million in 1991, £17.3 million in 2005 and £13.2 million in 2006, on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Figures for trade in services with Namibia are not available.

Exports: Poland

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value of exports to Poland was in 2006. [126981]

Mr. McCartney: UK exports of goods to Poland were worth about £2751 million in 2006 on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis; this figure may have been affected by transactions associated with missing trader VAT fraud particularly in the first half of the year. Figures for trade in services with Poland are likely to be available in summer 2007.

Imports: Namibia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value of imports from Namibia to the UK was in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2006; and what the top three products imported were by (i) volume and (ii) value. [126971]

Mr. McCartney: UK imports of goods to Namibia were worth about £316.5 million in 2001 and £346.6 million in 2006 on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Figures for trade in services with Namibia are not available.

The Standard International Trade Classification divisions with the largest UK imports from Namibia are shown in the following tables:

(a)(i) By weight in 2001

	Tonnes
01: Meat and meat preparations	8,589
03: Fish, crustaceans, molluscs etc.	2,868
28: Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	1,595

(a)(ii) By value in 2001

	£ million
66: Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	238.9
28: Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	43.1
01: Meat and meat preparations	29.0

(b)(i) By weight in 2006

	Tonnes
24: Cork and wood	5,250
01: Meat and meat preparations	3,524
03: Fish, crustaceans, molluscs etc	1,568

(b)(ii) By value in 2006

	£ million
66: Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	327.6
01 : Meat and meat preparations	11.7
24: Cork and wood	1.8

Notes:
1..nes: not elsewhere specified.
2. For UK imports from Namibia, non-metallic mineral manufactures nes are primarily diamonds.
Source:
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics.

Nuclear Power

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he plans to take to ensure an effective consultation on nuclear power in the energy review. [124225]

Malcolm Wicks: As set out in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry's parliamentary statement of 22 February 2007, the Government will be holding a new consultation on nuclear energy which is likely to be published in early May, or before Easter if that is possible, together with the White Paper on energy policy.

Post Office: Reorganisation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many submissions on the Post Office reorganisation consultation have been received from each region. [128193]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Government have received over 2,300 responses to their public consultation on the future of the Post Office network. The country/regional breakdown as of 9 March is as follows:

	Number of responses
East	103
East Midlands	86
London	79
North East	65
North West	124
Northern Ireland	5
Scotland	431
South East England	415
South West England	552
Wales	116
West Midlands	176
Yorkshire/Humber	85
Not given	68

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many responses have been received to the Post Office Network Consultation; and when he plans to announce its conclusions. [128399]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Government have received over 2,300 responses to its public consultation on the future of the Post Office network.

We are currently reviewing the response and will be publishing our conclusions in due course.

Post Offices: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many responses to the Post Office consultation his Department has received from *(a)* Orkney and Shetland and *(b)* each Scottish constituency. [126904]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has received over 2,300 responses to its public consultation on the future of the Post Office network, which ended on Thursday 8 March. In addition, the Department also received a number of local petitions and post card/stock letter campaigns.

We do not hold the information in the form requested, though a breakdown by region indicates that responses from Scotland accounted for around 19 per cent. of the total.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the merits of feed-in tariffs for the propagation of renewable energy; and whether he has investigated whether it would be possible to migrate from a system based upon renewable obligation certificates to one of feed-in tariffs. [128072]

Malcolm Wicks: The renewables obligation (RO) was introduced in 2002 to replace the previous support scheme, the Non Fossil Fuels Obligation (NFFO), which was a form of a feed in tariff. It was introduced as a means of encouraging greater deployment of renewables, providing investor confidence, and increasing value for money for the consumer. A review of the RO, carried out in 2005-06, confirmed that the RO was a more successful mechanism. Since its introduction eligible renewable electricity generated under the scheme has increased to 4.0 per cent of total electricity sales to UK consumers in 2005 up from 1.8 per cent. in 2002, compared with an increase under the NFFO from 0.2 per cent. of electricity sales in 1992 to 1.8 per cent. in 2002.

The Energy Review has confirmed the Government's commitment to the renewables obligation as the mechanism to support deployment of renewables. The Government has recently consulted on their proposals to reform the RO. A consultation document, "Reform of the Renewables Obligation and Statutory Consultation on the Renewables Obligation Order 2007", was published 9 October 2006 and 206 responses were received. This Government will be considering all issues that have been raised.

An announcement on the results of the consultation will be made in the Energy White Paper due to be published in March or May of this year.

Small Businesses

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what definition he uses of 'family business'. [126129]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* There is no standard definition used for 'family business'. A common definition, used by the DTI in its Annual Small Business Survey, is that a family business is one

"majority owned by members of the same family".

The 2005 survey found that 65 per cent. of all small and medium-sized enterprises were family businesses.

Trade Promotion

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when a minister in his Department last visited *(a)* Chile, *(b)* Brazil, *(c)* Argentina, *(d)* Mexico, *(e)* Uruguay, *(f)* Venezuela, *(g)* Bolivia and *(h)* Columbia on (i) a trade promotion visit and (ii) a visit in connection with other Departmental responsibilities. [124784]

Mr. Darling: The most recent visits by Ministers are as follows:

	Visits
(a) Chile	2002
(b) Brazil	September 2006
(c) Argentina	October 2000
(d) Mexico	October 2006
(e) Uruguay	No visits
(f) Venezuela	December 2000
(g) Bolivia	September 2002
(h) Colombia	No visits

Visits cover both trade promotion and other Departmental responsibilities.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when a Minister in his Department last visited *(a)* the US, *(b)* Canada, *(c)* Japan, *(d)* Russia and *(e)* Australia on (i) a trade promotion visit and (ii) a visit in connection with other Departmental responsibilities. [124785]

Mr. Darling: The most recent visits by Ministers are as follows:

	Visits
(a) US	October 2006
(b) Canada	April 2004
(c) Japan	September 2006
(d) Russia	February 2007
(e) Australia	November 2006

Visits cover both trade promotion and other Departmental responsibilities.

Ukraine: World Trade Organisation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what meetings he has held on the EU-Ukraine trade agreement; and what meetings he has held on the date of Ukrainian accession to the World Trade Organisation. [126701]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary for Trade and Industry has not held any meetings regarding the EU-Ukraine trade agreement, or regarding the date of Ukrainian accession to the World Trade Organisation. I have not held any such meetings either.

The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office, discussed the proposed new enhanced EU-Ukraine Agreement, which will include a Free Trade Agreement, and prospects for Ukraine's accession to the WTO, with the President and Prime Minister of Ukraine during his visit to Kiev on 26 and 27 February.

Utilities: Billing

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward measures to require the average household charge on utility bills to reflect different sizes of dwellings and households. [127773]

Malcolm Wicks: There is no average household charge for gas and electricity supply, and it is for individual suppliers to set tariffs. Customers' energy costs will reflect, among other things, the size of the dwelling and the number of residents, as well as the measures the customer has taken to reduce energy use by energy efficiency measures. Water supply is the responsibility of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Wind Power: Subsidies

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the overall subsidies to the wind energy sector were for *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [126135]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's main instrument for supporting renewables in England and Wales is the Renewables Obligation (RO), in Scotland it is the RO Scotland (ROS) and in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland RO (NIRO).

The RO (ROS and NIRO) is a market-based support mechanism that requires licensed electricity suppliers to provide a specified and growing proportion of their electricity from eligible renewable sources. Wind farms are one of the technologies supported under the RO. This provides an assured market for renewable electricity and ensures that it attracts a premium.

The full details for the past five years RO support to wind energy by UK country could be calculated but at a disproportionate cost. However details for the past two years have been calculated. The figures used for this calculation are based on the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets' (Ofgem) calculation of a Renewable Obligation Certificate's worth to a supplier (the buy-out price avoided plus the recycled buy-out fund amount).

£ million

	Onshore		*Offshore*	
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
England and Wales	35.7	42.6	12.5	20.7
Scotland	48.4	57.0	—	—
Northern Ireland	—	10.8	—	—
Total	84.1	11 0.4	12.5	20.7

Aside from the RO, to date, the Government have committed £107 million in grant support towards the capital installation of offshore wind farm development. These offshore wind farms are all based off the coast of England.

Additional support for onshore wind has in the recent past been given under the clear skies scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The total for these projects was:

	England	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
2003	305,870	12,500	69,986
2004	343,245	8,818	139,654
2005	610,035	83,959	308,474
2006	95,700	5,000	30,000

[1] Scheme launch

In Scotland, the Scottish Executive provide funding for the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (SCHRI) which was launched in 2002. Under this scheme, grants are awarded to eligible householders or not-for-profit community groups for the installation of renewable technologies including micro-wind turbines. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of grant commitments by year. However, as of January 2007, SCHRI capital grants with a total value of £1.7 million have been allocated to 152 projects where wind is one of up to two technologies installed with the grant.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Businesses: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Work at Height Regulations to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126649]

Mrs. McGuire: One-off costs to businesses were estimated to be £222 million to £292.3 million and recurring costs £86 million to £154.2 million. One-off costs for regulators were estimated to be £0.9 million and recurring costs £0.4 million.

Although we cannot attribute all of the reduction in falls injuries directly to the Work at Height Regulations they will have had a substantial influence and the lower number of reportable injuries to workers in 2005-06 compared with 2004-05 has saved nearly £51 million.

The information in this reply was drawn from the final regulatory impact assessment for the legislation that is available in the Library or on the HSE website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/ria/index.htm.

The Government and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are committed to meeting the Better Regulation challenge. HSE is constantly reviewing what can be done better to ensure that people are protected at work while avoiding unnecessary burdens on business.

Child Support Agency

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many staff he expects to transfer from the Child Support Agency to its replacement agency; and if he will make a statement; [107095]

(2) what plans he has to transfer staff from the Child Support Agency to the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission proposed in the White Paper A new system of child maintenance. [113548]

Mr. Plaskitt: People working in the Child Support Agency at the point of transfer to the new Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission (C-MEC) will transfer with the full protection required by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations as specified by the Cabinet Office's statement of practice on staff transfers in the public sector. We will work closely with trade unions to develop plans for this transfer. Once the transfer is complete C-MEC will be responsible for making any future decisions on staffing levels.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on employment zones in each year since 1998. [125900]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* The information is in the following table.

	Employment Zone spend (£ million)
1998-99	1
1999-2000	1
2000-01	72
2001-02	96
2002-03	94
2003-04	84
2004-05	75
2005-06	92

Notes:
1. Employment Zones started in April 2000 but prototype Employment Zones operated during 1998 and 1999 which accounts for the spend during those years.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest million.
3. Information is up to March 2006.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Financial Division.

Low Incomes: Grants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with which organisations he has held discussions on the introduction of seasonal grants for families on low incomes. [123169]

Mr. Plaskitt: Ministers in this Department have attended meetings on this and other related issues with a variety of organisations including Save the Children, the NSPCC, Barnado's, One Parent Families, Child Poverty Action Group and End Child Poverty.

National Insurance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adults have a national insurance number in the UK. [119523]

Mr. Plaskitt: The total number of national insurance numbers in issue at 31 December 2006 was approximately 76 million. There are approximately 16.5 million national insurance numbers in issue where the person is deceased. These numbers are retained which means there are approximately 59.5 million in issue to adults, not all of whom will be resident in the United Kingdom.

New Deal

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on all new deal programmes in each year since 1996-97 in 2003-04 prices; how much he estimates will be spent in each of the next three years in 2003-04 prices; and if he will make a statement. [101291]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New deal expenditure at 2003-04 prices

		£ million
1997-98	Outturn	50
1998-99	Outturn	353
1999-2000	Outturn	591
2000-01	Outturn	648
2001-02	Outturn	713
2002-03	Outturn	758
2003-04	Outturn	655
2004-05	Outturn	622
2005-06	Outturn	532
2006-07	Budget	550
2007-08	Planned	573

Notes:
1. Factors used to calculate 2003-04 prices are taken from Treasury Gross Domestic Product deflators.
2. The earliest reported costs for new deal are for the financial year 1997-98 as the programme started in January 1998.
3. Figure for 2008-09 are not available.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Financial Reporting and Control Team Notes:

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions why spending on new deal programmes for *(a)* 18 to 24-year-olds and *(b)* 25 year olds and over was reduced between 2004-05 and 2005-06; what budget has been set for 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [101307]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Between them, the mandatory new deal programmes have been successful in helping more than 965,000 people into work. New deal streamlining measures were announced in the Chancellor's 2003 budget statement. Spending on both new deal for young people and new deal 25-plus decreased partly because of these changes, which started in 2004-05 but were more fully implemented in 2005-06. The most substantial change was to reduce the minimum period of time participants would spend on the options stage of the programme from 26 to 13 weeks.

Evidence indicates that two thirds of all mandatory new deal job outcomes occur before the options stage, and most outcomes that do occur during options are achieved during the first 13 weeks. The programmes continue to ensure that participants who need additional help to get into work receive it, for example by spending more than 13 weeks on the options stage of the programme.

Budgeted expenditure for 2006-07 is £225 million for new deal for young people and £157 million for new deal 25-plus.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on the new deal in each year since 2003-04; and what spending is planned in each year to 2009-10. [102219]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table. Figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are not available.

	New deal spend since 2003-04 (£ million)
2003-04[1]	655
2004-05[1]	639
2005-06[1]	538
2006-07[1]	590

	New deal spend since 2003-04 (£ million)
2007-08[3]	631

[1] Actual spend
[2] Budgeted spend.
[3] Planned spend.

Notes:
1. Latest confirmed spend figures are to March 2006.
2. Figures include all new deal programme costs, staff costs, and allowances paid to participants, apart from the 50 plus element of the working tax credit, which is the responsibility of HMRC.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.

Sources:
DWP Financial Strategy Division, DWP Financial Control Division, DWP Information Directorate.

New Deal for Lone Parents: Take-up

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there were in the new deal for lone parents each month since 1998; and how many in each month successfully found employment. [119987]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 8 February 2007]:* The information is in the table:

New deal for lone parents

Month/year	Participants	People gaining a job
1998		
November	10,820	1,220
December	13,070	830
1999		
January	19,380	1,480
February	27,240	1,990
March	35,540	2,460
April	39,960	3,170
May	42,440	2,760
June	43,620	2,640
July	45,310	2,910
August	46,320	2,180
September	50,200	3,270
October	54,770	5,490
November	56,190	4,810
December	51,650	2,890
2000		
January	53,230	3,290
February	56,710	3,670
March	60,410	5,060
April	61,730	3,680
May	62,810	3,900
June	63,440	4,920
July	63,420	3,760
August	62,820	3,470
September	65,590	6,030
October	65,950	5,000
November	64,570	5,150
December	60,710	3,940
2001		
January	61,620	3,620
February	62,630	3,810
March	63,450	5,140
April	61,820	4,170

New deal for lone parents

Month/year	Participants	People gaining a job
May	60,970	4,160
June	60,750	4,990
July	60,530	3,880
August	60,610	4,400
September	62,220	5,880
October	60,550	5,840
November	61,280	7,190
December	59,310	3,360
2002		
January	61,860	4,060
February	65,150	4,780
March	68,990	6,380
April	69,800	5,290
May	72,970	7,030
June	74,700	5,250
July	76,120	5,200
August	76,390	6,600
September	81,460	8,200
October	82,460	7,210
November	81,490	8,000
December	77,480	3,360
2003		
January	79,080	5,210
February	80,750	4,590
March	81,850	4,860
April	82,190	4,540
May	82,610	6,320
June	84,270	5,550
July	84,570	5,190
August	84,730	5,840
September	88,220	8,400
October	90,380	9,750
November	89,970	7,460
December	85,890	4,620
2004		
January	87,040	6,580
February	89,110	5,930
March	89,970	6,610
April	88,810	7,470
May	87,690	6,650
June	85,690	6,000
July	82,640	6,990
August	80,390	5,300
September	80,390	8,290
October	81,060	10,630
November	79,270	8,310
December	72,650	5,250
2005		
January	73,980	5,560
February	74,570	6,220
March	73,990	5,330
April	72,950	7,260
May	70,650	6,150
June	68,660	5,340
July	66,970	5,810
August	65,680	4,390

New deal for lone parents

Month/year	Participants	People gaining a job
September	68,180	8,660
October	68,180	6,880
November	67,120	6,580
December	62,410	4,360
2006		
January	63,100	4,230
February	64,140	4,800
March	63,450	6,220
April	60,700	4,350
May	58,300	4,290
June	56,870	4,810
July	54,910	3,510
August	53,040	3,270

Notes:
1. The table includes separate figures for the number of people participating in a particular month, and the number of people gaining a job in a particular month.
2. People participating in a particular month may have gained a job in a subsequent month, and so will be recorded in that month as gaining a job.
3. New deal for lone parents started in October 1998.
4. Latest data is to August 2006.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the figures for people who are classed as not in employment, education or training include those who are participating in New Deal for Young People. [122051]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our measure of people who are not in employment, education or training includes those participating in the gateway stage of the new deal. However, once individuals move onto a new deal option they are counted as being in employment, education or training.

Occupational Pensions

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people took early retirement from their occupational pension scheme before April 2005; and how many are members of schemes in the Pension Protection Fund and in schemes negotiating to enter the fund; [127564]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of *(a)* removing the 90 per cent. cap and paying all pensions at the scheme level, *(b)* removing the 90 per cent. cap but keeping the overall cap on the level of pension provided and *(c)* removing the age discount for those who have not reached their normal retirement age for those people who took early retirement before April 2005 whose fund is in the Pension Protection Fund or negotiating to enter it. [127565]

James Purnell: There are currently three pension schemes which have completed an assessment period with the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) and whose members are receiving compensation from the fund; those members do not include any early retirees.

The remaining requested information is not available. Data on the number of early retirees are held by individual schemes and are not held centrally by the PPF until schemes have completed the assessment period. To gather the requested data would therefore entail contacting each scheme individually and incur disproportionate cost.

As it is not possible to determine the number of members who have taken early retirement it is therefore not possible to calculate the various requested estimated costs.

Pensioners: Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners live in the Leicester local authority area; how many are in receipt of council tax benefit; and what percentage this is of the total number of pensioners living in the local authority area. [125629]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Council tax benefit (CTB) recipients, Leicester local authority, August 2006

	Number/Percentage
CTB recipients aged 60 and over	15,190
Population aged 60 and over	47,100
Percentage of population aged 60 and over claiming CTB	32.3

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Case loads have been rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages to 1 decimal place.
3. Council tax benefit figures exclude second adult rebate cases.
4. 'Aged 60 and over' is defined as benefit units where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 and over. Therefore figures will contain some claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged over 60 years.
5. The data refer to benefit units which may be a single person or a couple.

Sources:
1. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. case load stock-count taken in August 2006.
2. Office for National Statistics mid-2005 population estimates.

Personal Income

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people earned over the *(a)* £5, *(b)* £10 and *(c)* £20 per week earning disregard and had their housing benefit reduced in each of the last three years; [127908]

(2) how many people earned over the *(a)* £5, *(b)* £10 and *(c)* £20 per week earning disregard and had their council tax benefit reduced in each of the last three years. [127909]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Personal Pensions

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an investor in a personal

account to be established under the provisions of the Pensions Bill will have the option to invest in *(a)* their local economy, *(b)* ethical funds, *(c)* green funds and *(d)* infrastructure projects for the local community. [127522]

James Purnell: It will be up to the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority to decide on the appropriate investment funds to be offered to members taking into account any legal requirements and objectives, for example to run personal accounts in the best interests of members. We expect this will include a choice of social, environmental and ethical funds and branded funds.

Social Fund

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether there is a target in place for the length of time taken to process an application to the Social Fund via the Social Fund hotline; [124872]

(2) whether there is a target in place for the length of time taken to process an application for a community care grant; [124873]

(3) whether applications made to the Social Fund can be fast tracked under exceptional circumstances; [124904]

(4) whether there is a target in place for the length of time taken to process an application to the Social Fund via the Social Fund hotline. [124909]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 19 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking whether there are targets in place for the length of time taken to process an application to the Social Fund via the Social Fund hotline, for the length of time taken to process an application for a community care grant, and whether applications made to the Social Fund can be fast tracked under exceptional circumstances. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has a number of targets that are agreed with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, supported by a suite of Key Management Indicators (KMI) that set the expected standards of delivery.

The KMI relating to Social Fund applications requires Crisis Loans (whether taken by telephone or otherwise) to be dealt with within an actual average clearance time of two days. Where the application is for living expenses however this must, wherever possible, be dealt with on the day that the application is made. For Community Care Grants, the KMI specifies that applications be processed within an actual average clearance time of nine days.

All applications to the Social Fund are dealt with as quickly as possible. Whilst there is no specific fast track system, staff are expected to treat each individual application on its merits to give sympathetic consideration to any exceptional circumstances faced by the customer.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on promoting the Social Fund hotline during the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124901]

Mr. Plaskitt: Jobcentre plus does not have a social fund hotline and does not actively promote the social fund to the public. However, material is produced to signpost customers to the correct channels if they wish to make or pursue an enquiry or make an application.

During the last 12 months £289,746.84 has been spent on signposting for the social fund.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there is any reward mechanism for people whose calls to the benefit fraud hotline result in successful prosecution. [124734]

Mr. Plaskitt: No.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many user visits the benefit theft website received in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124735]

Mr. Plaskitt: The DWP initiative targeting benefit fraud was re-launched as targeting benefit thieves in November 2006. On the site at www.dwp.gov.uk/benefit-thieves people can anonymously report someone they suspect of committing benefit theft.

The information is in the following table.

Number of visits to the targeting benefit fraud and targeting benefit thieves websites

Targeting benefit fraud	*Visits*	*Unique visitors*
February 2006	71,739	18,219
March 2006	80,495	21,495
April 2006	57,562	16,009
May 2006	62,886	17,552
June 2006	54,367	15,596
July 2006	56,061	17,252
August 2006	56,865	17,834
September 2006	55,001	17,468
October 2006	49,487	16,173
Targeting benefit thieves		
November 2006	184,133	19,972
December 2006	101,424	13,739
January 2007	153,663	22,982

Notes:
1. Visits - Number of times a visitor or visitors came to the site. Each visit is recorded separately for every visit more than thirty minutes apart.
2. Unique Visitors - Individuals who visited the site during the report period. If someone visits more than once, they are counted only the first time they visit.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether calls to the benefit fraud hotline are recorded. [124733]

Mr. Plaskitt: No.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on promoting the benefit fraud hotline in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124736]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department runs the benefit fraud communications campaign primarily to positively reinforce honest behaviour, create a climate of intolerance to benefit fraud and to undermine its social acceptability.

The figure given as follows represents media expenditure for those elements of the campaign which include promotion of the national benefit fraud hotline.

Advertising expenditure is only available on an annual basis. Advertising expenditure for the last full 12 month period is given in the following table.

	Advertising spend (£000)
2005-06	5,055

Notes:
1. All figures are exclusive of VAT.
2. The figures in these tables refer to media spend only, excluding production and other costs.
3. All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Social Security Benefits: Languages

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claimants of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* other income-related benefits took up the offer of free English provision in each year since 1997; how many places for English provision were available in each year; and what the budget was for the provision of free English lessons in each year; [124086]

(2) if he will place in the Library the guidelines given to jobcentres for improving the take-up of English courses. [124087]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 19 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking about: the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance and other income-related benefits who took up the offer of free English provision in each year from 1997; how many places for English provision were available in each year; and what budget was provided for the provision of free English lessons in each year; and whether a copy of Jobcentre Plus guidelines to advisers will be placed in the Library. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am unable to answer your specific questions as we do not routinely collect data about Jobcentre Plus funding provision at the level requested. Within Jobcentre Plus language support forms one component of the basic skills provision available to help people improve their literacy, numeracy and language skills through employment programmes such as the New Deal.

In addition to the provision available through the New Deal, many benefit customers access freely available provision provided and funded by other organisations such as the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), local authorities and community-based organisations.

The Jobcentre Plus guidelines for advisers are being updated in the light of the Minister of State's recent announcement about measures to help break down language barriers that are preventing unemployed people from finding work and a copy will be placed in the Library when they are completed.

Social Security Benefits: Offenders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was to the public purse of benefits paid to foreign nationals released from the prison estate who have leave to remain in the UK for human rights reasons in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [128210]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Vocational Training

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place *(a)* to verify and *(b)* to audit the (i) information on application forms for government-funded training courses, (ii) employment status of applicants and (iii) assessments of standards achieved undertaken by training agencies. [125666]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

It is the responsibility of the learning providers themselves to verify learners' eligibility or participation on publicly funded post-16 training courses. However, the Department works closely with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which is responsible for funding post-16 learning providers, to ensure that appropriate eligibility criteria are in place and that audit arrangements are robust and fit for purpose. The LSC also provides additional guidance to providers on the eligibility of learners and audit requirements as part of the evidence requirements for funding purposes.

It is the responsibility of awarding bodies to mark exam papers and to check the coursework marks given by those learning providers who deliver accredited qualifications. The awarding bodies are regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, who are required to monitor and report publicly on qualifications and the performance of awarding bodies.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households claimed winter fuel payments in each financial year since 2001-02; and how many have claimed in 2006-07. [128212]

James Purnell: The following table shows the number of household payments made from winter 2002-03. Information is not available for earlier years. Figures for winter 2006-07 are not yet available but we expect the number to be similar to that for winter 2005-06.

	Household payments made
2002-03	8,100,040
2003-04	8,166,350
2004-05	8,377,370
2005-06	8,506,750

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Any residence found to have four or more occupants aged 60 and over is not included in the household figures as it is assumed to be a care home.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

National Land and Property Gazetteer

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the National Land and Property Gazetteer's Data Entry Conventions and Best Practice Guide. [127054]

Ruth Kelly: The National Land and Property Gazetteer is the responsibility of the Improvement and Development Agency. The requested guide is available at http://www.nlpg.org.uk/documents/LLPG_SNN_best_practice_v2.pdf and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government where she plans the regional offices of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights to be based; and whether they will be located on the basis of Government office for the regions boundaries. [127050]

Ruth Kelly: The location of the regional offices of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights will be for the Commission itself to determine.

Council Housing: Greater London

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants in *(a)* arms length management organisation, *(b)* council managed and *(c)* housing association managed properties there are in London in each borough. [126491]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not collect the number of tenants in the properties my hon. Friend refers to. However, it has collected on a provisional basis the numbers of rented dwellings which those organisations manage on 1 April 2006, which the following table shows:

Authority	*Number of dwellings managed directly by local authority*[1]	*Number of dwellings managed by arms length management organisations (ALMOs)*[1]	*Number of dwellings managed by housing associations or registered social landlords (RSLs)*[2]
Barking	19,985	0	2,494
Barnet	0	11,106	6,588
Bexley	0	0	11,766
Brent	0	9,608	13,827
Bromley	0	0	15,403
Camden	24,581	0	10,840
Croydon	14,159	0	9,117
Ealing	0	13,874	10,945
Enfield	11,956	0	6,675
Greenwich	25,024	0	9,568
Hackney	0	[4]21,324	21,927
Hammersmith	0	13,261	12,151
Haringey	0	16,431	12,738
Harrow	5,089	0	3,683
Havering	0	10,411	2,619
Hillingdon	0	10,838	5,958
Hounslow	0	13,649	6,751
Islington	0	25,189	1 1,934
Kensington	0	6,961	12,114
Kingston upon Thames	4,863	0	2,355
Lambeth	[3]26,758	[3]3,189	19,005
Lewisham	[3]13,321	[3]12,642	8,588
London (City of)	1,897	0	249
Merton	6,609	0	4,461
Newham	0	[4]17,814	11,524
Redbridge	4,741	0	4,112
Richmond-upon-Thames	0	0	9,473
Southwark	41,482	0	14,043
Sutton	0	6,897	4,397
Tower Hamlets	17,647	0	20,519
Waltham Forest	0	10,671	10,211
Wandsworth	17,296	0	9,971

Authority	Number of dwellings managed directly by local authority[1]	Number of dwellings managed by arms length management organisations (ALMOs)[1]	Number of dwellings managed by housing associations or registered social landlords (RSLs)[2]
Westminster	0	12,335	12,934
Total	235,408	216,200	318,940

[1] Figures in these two columns exclude shared ownership dwellings and dwellings managed under the private finance initiative (PFI). They are derived from the Housing Revenue Account Base Data Return 2007-08 submitted by local authorities to the Department in October 2006, and are subject to what is said in notes 3 and 4.

[2] Figures in this column were collected from local authorities by the 2006 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix. They include dwellings owned or leased by landlords registered with the Housing Corporation, local authority dwellings leased exclusively by an RSL, and housing association dwellings that are not registered with the Housing Corporation. They exclude dwellings managed but not owned by RSLs and any dwellings sold under shared ownership or rents to mortgage schemes.

[3] Figures for Lambeth and Lewisham in these two columns are derived from the number of tenanted dwellings in their ALMOs at the time of their establishment in 2005 and 2007 respectively. In practice, Right to Buy sales (RTB) since then are likely to mean that the number of ALMO tenanted dwellings and dwellings managed directly the local authority are slightly different.

[4] Number of dwellings at the time of the establishment of the ALMO in 2005. In practice RTB sales are likely to mean that dwellings are slightly fewer.

Council Tax: Appeals

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals against council tax bandings were *(a)* made and *(b)* successful in England in each year since the introduction of council tax. [127011]

Ruth Kelly: For information about council tax banding appeals between 2000-01 and 2004-05 I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2239W, given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles). The Valuation Tribunal Service has held information centrally on the number of successful appeals since the beginning of 2006-07. Information for that year up to 31 December 2006 and for the number of appeals in 2005-06 is as follows:

	Number of council tax banding appeals	Number of appeals requiring full tribunal hearing	Number successful
2005-06	23,199	n/a	n/a
2006-07 (to 31 December 2006)	17,464	1149	473

n/a = Not available.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of properties in Bands D and above that would move up a council tax band following a council tax revaluation in England, assuming no change to the number of bands. [127041]

Ruth Kelly: The Government have made clear that there will be no revaluation during this Parliament.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that *(a)* energy efficiency measures, *(b)* local energy installations and *(c)* other home improvements are not considered when homes are valued for council tax purposes. [127051]

Ruth Kelly: Provisions in the Council Tax (Alterations of Lists and Appeals) Regulations 1993, which have been in force since council tax was introduced, mean that adding energy efficient measures such as double glazing or cavity wall insulation, installing equipment such as micro wind turbines and solar panels, or making any other improvements to a property will have no effect on its current council tax banding.

If a property is sold, improvements may have an effect, but only if they are such that they push the value of the property into the next band range. Only substantial improvements would be likely to move a property up a band when it is sold. Energy efficiency measures are, in isolation, unlikely to do so.

Councillors: Allowances

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average level is of allowances paid to councillors. [127047]

Ruth Kelly: The latest consolidated data is from the survey of Member Allowances, IDeA, 2004. On average, councillors in England received £5,187 in basic allowances per annum. In addition, 46.8 per cent. of councillors also received a special responsibility allowance (SRA). An overall estimate of average SRA payments is not available.

The level of councillor remuneration is at the discretion of individual authorities.

Departments: Labour Party

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions since 2002 civil servants in her Department, including the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and its agencies have been given permission to attend the Labour Party conference to carry out departmental business. [127205]

Ruth Kelly: This information is not held centrally. All permanent civil servants are covered by the civil service management code and Cabinet Office guidance on political activity.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the letters of appointment of each of her Department's special advisers. [127059]

Ruth Kelly: My special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers", a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Individual letters of appointment are confidential between the employer and the employee and therefore not for publication.

Domestic Violence

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on domestic violence, what additional funding is being provided to local authorities to install Sanctuary Schemes. [127110]

Ruth Kelly: My Department has allocated £47.2 million to local authorities to help them tackle and prevent homelessness in their area for 2007-08. They may choose to use a proportion of this money to fund Sanctuary Schemes. However work in the London borough of Barnet has shown that in one year the installation of 40 sanctuaries, which cost approximately £68,000, led to an estimated saving of approximately £600,000. We anticipate significant savings for local authorities on this basis, due to the reduction in costs associated with homelessness within communities.

The £47.2 million is part of Communities and Local Government's £74 million homelessness prevention grant for 2007-08 which supports schemes across local authorities and the voluntary sector.

Flood Control

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the regional spatial strategies will take account of the *(a)* effects on the costs of future flood defences of the effects of climate change and *(b)* the costs of flood defences on the long-term sustainability of development; and if she will make a statement. [125623]

Yvette Cooper: The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) provides the long term spatial planning framework for a region for a 15 to 20 year period, with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. In considering climate change and the long term sustainability of development, the costs of flood defences are taken into account alongside other matters, including the availability of resources.

We have recently consulted on a draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 'Planning and Climate Change'. This sets out our proposals on how planning should contribute to stabilising climate change and take into account the unavoidable consequences. Regional Planning Bodies will be expected to prepare and deliver RSSs for their regions that secure new development and shape places resilient to the effects of climate change in ways consistent with social cohesion and inclusion. These RSSs should be informed by sustainability appraisals which integrate social, environmental and economic considerations from the start of the plan-making process.

Regions will be expected to consider their vulnerability to climate change; the desirability of avoiding new development in those areas with likely increased vulnerability to climate change, particularly where it is not viable to manage likely risks through suitable measures to provide resilience; and, bring forward adaptation options for existing development in likely vulnerable areas.

The draft PPS builds on our policies in PPS25 'Development and Flood Risk' which sets out the detailed considerations applicable to taking flood risk into account in determining strategic planning considerations in the RSS for a region.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of the *(a)* minimum, *(b)* average and *(c)* maximum cost of a (i) home information pack and (ii) energy performance certificate. [127061]

Ruth Kelly: The price of a home information pack and its component parts, including an energy performance certificate will be set by the market and not by Government.

Homelessness: Hostels

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the regulatory regime is for homeless hostels. [126841]

Yvette Cooper: Hostels are already regulated. Most are owned by registered social landlords (RSLs) and so are regulated by the Housing Corporation. This ensures that hostels have appropriate procedures in place to ensure that the hostel has the right management systems for maintaining good quality temporary homes and, where suitable, the right level of support services.

Services in hostels which are funded by Supporting People (SP) are expected to work to minimum standards of service provision set out in an SP quality assessment framework. All services are also subject to review to ensure that they provide a good quality service to their users, are value for money and meet objectives sat out in local SP strategies and other local and national strategies.

In addition, we have published a best practice toolkit to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of hostels and are investing £90 million in a hostels capital improvement programme to help improve the physical standards and reshape services in hostels.

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made by the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme in improving the quality of life of homeless people; and if she will make a statement. [126851]

Yvette Cooper: The Hostels Capital Improvement Programme has made significant progress. Over £90 million is going to be invested in around 150 projects in 47 local authority areas. The funding is underpinned by the need to change the very nature of hostels to provide better opportunities for people who have experienced homelessness and prevent them from becoming homeless again. Through the programme, hostels will cease to be places of last resort, but instead will be centres of excellence and choice which positively change lives.

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the current balance between first stage and second stage hostel accommodation. [126852]

Yvette Cooper: It is the responsibility of local authorities, in discussion with stakeholders, to consider the need for hostel provision in their areas to help inform their homelessness strategies and supporting people strategies. This will enable authorities to make an assessment of needs and resources, identifying gaps in the system and setting priorities.

My Department will shortly be publishing a 'Review of hostels for rough sleepers in London'. Part of this research looks at move-on accommodation.

Housing: Low Incomes

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will require local authorities to increase the amount of affordable housing they provide. [127662]

Yvette Cooper: Local planning authorities can control the number, size and type of affordable housing built in their areas through the planning system. In support of this, we have been encouraging them to develop their strategic housing role, including the assessment of future needs for affordable housing.

New supply of affordable housing is provided mainly by the Housing Corporation through the National Affordable Housing Programme and some is provided without grant by developers under S106. The Housing Corporation and individual Registered Social Landlords work closely with local authorities to deliver increased amounts of affordable housing. We have set ourselves the target of delivering 30,000 social rented units in 2007-08—a 50 per cent. increase on 2004-05 levels.

In addition, we are also examining the scope for high performing local authorities and their ALMOs to build more social housing for retained ownership. This might entail partnerships between authorities, ALMOs and developers, using local authority land. Such schemes could complement development led by Registered Social Landlords where it provides value for money.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Supporting People agencies have powers to commission home improvement agencies through competitive tendering. [127546]

Mr. Woolas: Individual administering authorities are responsible for the local delivery of Supporting People services. The way in which they do this is a matter for them in accordance with the local needs and priorities set out in their Supporting People five-year strategy.

Administering authorities have the discretion to enter into contracts with providers through competitive tendering for the provision of home improvement agency services but they are not obliged to do so. In some cases, administering authorities provide these services on an in-house basis.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget was of each Supporting People Agency in each of the last three years. [127547]

Mr. Woolas: Communities and Local Government (CLG) allocate Supporting People funding to 150 administering authorities and not to an agency. Administering authorities have responsibility for developing, delivering and monitoring the Supporting People programme locally based on local needs and priorities set out in their Supporting People five-year strategy.

Funding allocations to individual authorities in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are published on the Supporting People website at www.spkweb.org.uk All administering authorities also receive an administration grant from CLG, which contributes towards the cost of running (for example, data collection and maintaining an effective IT system) the Supporting People programme.

Housing: Swindon

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government grant to Swindon borough council for housing was in each year since 1990. [127663]

Mr. Woolas: Central Government support to Swindon borough council for its housing capital investment programmes in the years for which we have comparable data was as follows.

	£000
1997-98	2,110
1998-99	1,333
1999-2000	1,508
2000-01	5,147
2001-02	2,115
2002-03	2,178
2003-04	1,953
2004-05	1,636
2005-06	3,708
2006-07	1,380
2007-08	1,408

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities which already have all-out elections would have to establish single member wards under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. [127094]

Ruth Kelly: We stated in the White Paper that we will enable any council that holds whole council elections to request that the Electoral Commission undertakes a review for the purpose of re-warding the area with single member wards. It is our intention, during the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill's remaining Parliamentary stages, to introduce by amendment the necessary provisions into that Bill.

Local Government Executive

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the expenditure implications of the creation of directly-elected executives in a local authority. [127206]

Ruth Kelly: An assessment of the costs of implementing all of the proposals in the White Paper "Strong and prosperous communities" including directly elected executives, was published in the regulatory impact assessment on 26 October 2006.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to introduce a cap per head of population on floor damping reduction. [128020]

Mr. Woolas: The minimum guaranteed formula grant increase from one year to the next, known as the floor, has to be paid for from within the total formula grant available. Our current method of paying for the floor, scaling back increases in grant above the floor, was the most widely supported when we last consulted on this in 2005. We are currently reviewing the distribution of formula grant for the next three year settlement, from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Local Government: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and local Government what the average salary is of a local authority chief executive. [127042]

Ruth Kelly: My Department does not collect this information. Information on chief executives' pay can be obtained from the local government employers' website (http://www.lge.gov.uk).

Local Government: Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the portfolio of a member of a directly elected executive could be changed by the leader of the council after the election of that executive under her proposals for reform of local government. [127064]

Ruth Kelly: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill provides that executive leaders may allocate, and at any time reallocate, portfolios as they think fit.

Lyons Inquiry

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the Lyons report. [127915]

Mr. Woolas: Government Ministers have discussions with their colleagues on a broad range of issues.

Non-Domestic Rates: Broadband

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with other Government Departments on the potential impact on the Government's digital strategy of making local loop unbundling operators subject to non-domestic rates liability for unbundled local loops; and if she will make a statement. [128059]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1687W, by my hon. Friend the Minister for Industry and the Regions to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff).

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the National Planning Application Register to hold 100 per cent. of all planning applications and decisions. [127053]

Ruth Kelly: There is no timetable as the proposal for the National Planning Application Register is still at the feasibility testing stage and the Government have yet to take a decision on whether and how to take it forward.

Regional Government: Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by each regional Government office in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [127048]

Ruth Kelly: The number of permanent, fixed term and casual staff working for each Government office for the regions, including those temporarily away from the office on secondment, loan, maternity leave, career break and special leave without pay, in March of each year, was as follows. Full-time equivalent (FTE) figures are not available for 1997:

	March 1997		*March 2006*	
	Headcount	*FTE*	*Headcount*	*FTE*
GO East	182	—	278	267.4
GO East Midlands	234	—	280	270.0
GO London	274	—	313	307.6
GO North East	284	—	317	302.5
GO North West[1]	428	—	372	357.2
GO South East	224	—	319	299.3
GO South West	139	—	325	309.2

	March 1997		March 2006	
	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE
GO West Midlands	336	—	301	286.7
GO Yorkshire and Humber	288	—	294	280.7
Total GO network	2,389	—	2,799	2,680.6

[1] For 1997 figures include staff in Government office for Merseyside, which was merged with GO North West on 1 April 1998.

Since March 2006, the total number of staff has fallen to 2,450 (2,353 FTE) in February 2007 and is expected to fall to about 200 by December 2008.

In 1997 the Government office network represented the interests of four Whitehall Departments. Today the network delivers on behalf of 10 Departments.

Unitary Councils

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for further waves of bids for unitary status. [127103]

Ruth Kelly: We have given councils in two-tier areas a short window of opportunity to make proposals for unitary status. We have no plans to launch a further round of reorganisation.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria she has specified for assessing the business cases put forward for unitary authority status. [127510]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1818W.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whom she has appointed as independent auditors to assess unitary authority bids. [127511]

Mr. Woolas: The assessment process, set out in the Invitation to Councils in England which we published alongside the White Paper, provides that financial cases underpinning the proposals that proceed to stakeholder consultation will be subject to limited assurance in relation to the submission of baseline figures to be carried out by the Audit Commission.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects *(a)* the bids for unitary status to undergo assessment and *(b)* reports on these assessments to be published. [127512]

Mr. Woolas: Proposals for future unitary structures are currently being assessed against the criteria set out in the Invitation to Councils in England which we published alongside the White Paper. We intend to announce our decisions on which proposals should proceed to stakeholder consultation before 27 March, the day for publication of the notice of election for the forthcoming local government elections.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Respect Task Force

9. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the work of the Respect Task Force; and if he will make a statement. [127798]

Mr. McNulty: The Respect Task Force works across Government and published the Respect Action Plan in January 2006 in which it set out an ambitious programme of work to build a modern culture of respect. One year on, good progress is being made, as documented by the progress report recently published.

Gun Crime

10. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the prevalence of gun crime in England and Wales. [127799]

Mr. McNulty: Gun crime (including air weapons) has increased since 1997; there has been a decrease in the total number of firearms offences over the last two years, from 24,094 in 2002-03 to 22,896 in 2004-05 and 21,521 in 2005-06. There were 50 homicides involving firearms (including air weapons) in 2005-06, a decrease of 36 per cent. from 78 the previous year and the lowest recorded since 1998-99.

Custodial Sentences

11. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of custodial sentences. [127800]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The report 'Re-offending of adults: results from the 2003 cohort' shows that for this cohort the two-year re-offending rate for adults is 57.6 per cent.—2.3 per cent. below the predicted rate calculated from the 2000 baseline. For custodial sentences it is 65.8 per cent. which is higher than for non-custodial sentences at 53.4 per cent. though the disposal given depends upon the characteristics of the offender which will also affect the chances of re-offending.

Bail Act

12. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Solicitor-General and the Minister for Constitutional Affairs on the operation of the Bail Act 1976. [127801]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The operation of the Bail Act is kept under continuous review by the criminal justice departments with the aims of ensuring that appropriate decisions are made as to whether to release a defendant on bail or remand in custody, and of improving the processes which underpin the management of bail when granted. The 'Rebalancing the Criminal Justice System' Review published last July included a range of commitments to ensure that defendants who breach bail are returned to court quickly and dealt with robustly.

Teenage Drug Use

13. **Mr. Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that teenagers are aware of the possible dangers associated with drug use. [127802]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2003 FRANK, the Government funded drug awareness campaign, has reached out to young people, their parents and carers, with a range of innovative national and local communications providing credible drug advice and information. We have also launched 'Understanding Drugs' as a new resource to all secondary schools to support drugs education programmes. In addition we continue to work across Government to ensure that drug education in schools is effective at building awareness of the harm caused by drugs as well as engaging and supporting those groups of young people most vulnerable to developing drug problems.

Prisons: Drug Usage

14. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to reduce the level of drug usage in prisons. [127803]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To tackle drug-use in custody, NOMS has in place a comprehensive drug strategy. The strategy's three key aims are to: reduce the amount of illicit drugs getting in—by using a co-ordinated range of supply reduction measures; reduce the demand for drugs—through delivery of effective drug treatment; and strengthen through-care links with the community, helping ensure timely continuity of care for drug-users on release. While NOMS remains committed to doing more, the drug strategy is already making significant progress, with drug-use—as measured by random mandatory drug testing—down from 24.4 per cent. in 1996-97 to 10.3 per cent. in 2004-05; a reduction of 58 per cent.

Cocaine

15. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of cocaine users in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [127804]

Mr. Vernon Coaker: We do not have a figure for 1997, however we know that while the number of users of cocaine powder increased significantly, to about 769,000 in 2005-06, use of amphetamines decreased and overall use of stimulant drugs has remained stable over this period.

Young Offender Institutions

16. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of inmates of young offender institutions are remand prisoners. [127805]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The January prison statistics show that 2 per cent. of people in young offender institutes were unsentenced (either awaiting trial or convicted but awaiting sentencing) and held under prison-rules.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many 2052SH forms were opened in respect of each young offender institution in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2007 to date; and if he will make a statement. [127946]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not collated centrally in the requested format and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

17. **Mr. Iain Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role he plans for family intervention in helping reduce crime and antisocial behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [127808]

Mr. McNulty: As part of the respect programme the Government have committed to establish a network of family intervention projects across England. Evidence shows that these projects are effective in reducing antisocial behaviour of the small number of families who can be responsible for significant amounts of antisocial behaviour in their community.

Drug-related Crime

18. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat drug-related crime. [127809]

Mr. Coaker: The most recent published crime figures show that the strategy is working: recorded acquisitive crime, to which drug-related crime makes a substantial contribution, has fallen by 20 per cent. since the onset of the drug interventions programme (DIP) (the 12 months to March 2003).

The drug interventions programme (DIP) is now getting on average over 3,000 drug misusing offenders into drug treatment each month.

The Home Office is carrying out an ongoing research programme to look at the effectiveness of individual programme components.

Prisoner Literacy

19. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking with the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to improve the literacy of prisoners. [127810]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the cross-Government plan to reduce re-offending, the strategy for improving skills outcomes for offenders was set out in the Green Paper 'Reducing Re-Offending Through Skills and Employment'. This followed and builds on the work of the Learning and Skills Council in rolling out its new Offender Learning and Skills Service nationally from July 2006. The plans outlined in the Green Paper are being taken forward in 'Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps', published in December 2006 which furthers the focus on developing offender skills resulting in more obtaining sustainable employment.

Immigration Removal Centres

20. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the capacity of immigration centres. [127811]

Mr. Byrne: The adequacy of the capacity of Immigration Removal Centres is assessed on an ongoing basis. We will open a new purpose built centre at Gatwick next year and we are currently considering a range of other options to further develop the estate.

Cannabis Farms

21. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to tackle cannabis farms; and if he will make a statement. [127812]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has supported the national police crackdown on cannabis factories. Operation Keymer, which ran from 25 September until 5 October 2006, was one part of ongoing work taking place across the country to identify and close down these factories, while improving police knowledge and understanding of the trade through activity-led intelligence gathering.

ACPO is co-ordinating the police response to the emerging issue of cannabis factories and police forces are continuing to close down cannabis factories where identified.

Anti-Semitic Crimes

22. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful prosecutions there were for anti-Semitic crimes in England and Wales in 2006. [127813]

Mr. McNulty: We are committed to tackling all hate crimes including those motivated by anti-Semitism. This information is not currently available, but we have made improvements to the way we collect data and expect to have it from April 2008.

Monitoring the figures will enable us to understand the extent and nature of all hate crimes and to be able to respond more effectively, for example by changing beat times or places.

Asylum Seekers

23. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to deport failed asylum applicants. [127814]

Mr. Byrne: The effectiveness of measures deployed to remove failed asylum seekers is assessed on an ongoing basis. These measures have ensured that the removal of failed asylum seekers has been steadily increasing over the past few years.

Community Service Volunteers

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2043-44W, on community service volunteers, what public protection measures have been agreed. [127540]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All prisoners who undertake placements are subject to the conditions for release on temporary licence which pay full regard to issues of public protection. Prisons and placement organisations complete a full risk assessment including appropriate CRB checks. As an additional safeguard, the revised memorandum puts in place further public protection measures that ensure that the probation office in the placement area is notified and that the offender manager will highlight any risk issues that have been identified and will inform the police and/or the prison when appropriate.

Community Support Officers: Protective Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 94W, on community support officers protective clothing, what representations he has received from representatives of police community support officers on the issuing of protective equipment. [123889]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 February 2007]:* We have received a number of representations about the issue of protective equipment to police community support officers(PCSOs), but none from representatives of PCSOs. The decision on the equipment of PCSOs in each force remains a matter for chief officers.

Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence Directorate

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often he holds meetings with the Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence Directorate. [126027]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary(Dr. John Reid) holds regular meetings with officials from the Home Office's Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence Directorate.

Crime: Computers

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions obtained in the last five years for offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. [126727]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested, taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, is provided in the following table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990, England and Wales 2001-2005[1,2]

Offence description	Principal statute	2001 Proceeded against	2001 Found guilty	2002 Proceeded against	2002 Found guilty	2003 Proceeded against	2003 Found guilty
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	Computer Misuse Act 1990 S.2	4	3	6	5	9	3
Unauthorised modification of computer material[3]	Computer Misuse Act 1990 S.3	12	12	8	7	3	1
Unauthorised access to computer material	Computer Misuse Act 1990 S.1	9	9	4	2	7	1

Offence description	Principal statute	2004 Found guilty	2004 Proceeded against	2005 Found guilty	2005 Proceeded against
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences	Computer Misuse Act 1990 S.2	6	2	11	7
Unauthorised modification of computer material[3]	Computer Misuse Act 1990 S.3	10	7	8	5
Unauthorised access to computer material	Computer Misuse Act 1990 .1	5	3	5	4

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3 Data for Essex police force area for this offence in 2001 show 7 convictions for which there are no prosecutions. These data have been omitted from the table.
Source:
RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Crime: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was allocated to each police force for combating e-crime in 2006-07; and what the proposed allocation for 2007-08 is. [126726]

Mr. McNulty: Total Government funding for the police in England and Wales for 2006-07 was £9.3 billion. In addition, specific pump priming funding of £26,200 was provided to each police force in England and Wales to help expand their computer crime teams.

The Government have announced total Government grant allocations to police forces in England and Wales for 2007-08 of £9.6 billion. Police spending on computer crime teams is expected to be funded from overall resources available and is a matter for each chief constable.

Departments: Written Questions

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the policy of his Department is on providing substantive answers to named day questions on the appropriate named day. [127912]

Mr. McNulty: The Department endeavours to answer all named day questions with a substantive reply on the named day. For certain questions this is not possible and hon. Members are provided with a holding reply until a substantive reply can be provided.

Drugs

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress his Department is making in tackling the availability of Class A drugs; and if he will make a statement. [127639]

Mr. Coaker: The Government's strategy is to bear down on all points in the drug supply chain to disrupt criminal gangs, stifle drug supply and reduce the harm caused to communities in the UK.

Latest figures available show that in 2005-06 over 2,200 kg of heroin and 15,300 kg of cocaine were taken out of the supply chain, 193 trafficking groups were disrupted or dismantled and £30 million of drug-related criminal assets were seized, depriving dealers of their financial lifeblood.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* crack cocaine and *(b)* opiate users with dependent children. [126607]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office-commissioned estimates of the number of problem opiate and crack users do not contain any information about individuals and their parental status. However, the Advisory Council of Misuse of Drugs in their report 'Hidden Harm' estimated that in the UK there were between 250,000 and 350,000 children of problem drug users in 2003. Since the publication of that report changes have been made to several monitoring systems to improve the information available, which will allow us to produce an updated estimate in the future. In particular the core dataset for the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System for England was updated from April 2006 and all treatment service providers are now required to record information on whether users in treatment have dependent children and whether the child(ren) are living with the person in treatment or with others.

Foreign National Prisoners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 104W, on foreign national prisoners, what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* time which would be required to cross-reference the electronic records held by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of the offences committed by the foreign nationals released from HMP Peterborough in the last 12 months to 31 March 2007 with the prisoner discharge records held manually at HMP Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [128211]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As I previously outlined in my answers to the hon. Gentleman, the requested information on the offences committed by foreign nationals released from HMP Peterborough in the last 12 months to 31 March 2006 could be obtained only by exceeding the £600 cost limit for answering parliamentary questions.

Frontex

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role the United Kingdom plays in the European Union's border management agency Frontex; and what the Government's policy is on the future development of Frontex. [127334]

Joan Ryan: The UK strongly supports the EU Border Agency (Frontex). The UK has provided funding, operational planning and training to Frontex, as well as joining a number of Frontex operations. We will continue to participate in Frontex operations where there is benefit for the UK and the rest of the EU. We are keen to strengthen Frontex and see it develop in future.

Internet: Crime

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under which legislation prosecutions may be made of those found guilty of uploading video content onto the internet containing *(a)* criminal damage, *(b)* physical assaults and *(c)* vandalism. [127399]

Mr. Coaker: Uploading videos of a criminal offence is not necessarily itself a criminal offence It will be a criminal offence if it amounts to inciting the offence involved, or if it involves the publication of obscene material. UK based Internet service providers take a responsible approach to the contents they host. Most have acceptable use policies which enable them to remove content from the site that is distasteful, even if it is not necessarily illegal.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Internet Watch Foundation on video clips on websites which show *(a)* violence and physical assaults and *(b)* criminal damage. [127410]

Mr. Coaker: The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) is the only authorised organisation in the UK operating an internet 'hotline' for the public to report their exposure to potentially illegal content online. Its aim is to minimise the availability of potentially illegal internet content, specifically child abuse images hosted anywhere in the world; criminally obscene content hosted in the UK; and incitement to racial hatred content hosted in the UK. While we work closely with the IWF on these issues, we have not had any discussions with it about video clips on websites which show violence, physical assaults or criminal damage as these issues are outside of its remit.

In terms of industry regulation, the vast majority of the UK internet industry takes a responsible approach to what content it hosts, both of its own volition and in co-operation with law enforcement and Government agencies. Where the industry is advised that content it hosts contravenes UK legislation, it will remove it. In addition, internet service providers (ISPs) also have contracts with their customers concerning what may be hosted on their servers called acceptable use policies (AUPs), which allow them to remove offensive or objectionable material, even if it is not illegal. Anyone concerned about the contents of a website should approach the relevant ISP hosting the site and ask it to consider whether it breaches its AUP.

Metropolitan Police: Finance

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding per head of the population in London the Metropolitan police force received for *(a)* local, *(b)* regional and *(c)* national policing purposes in each of the last five years. [127303]

Mr. McNulty: The Police Grant Settlement 2007-08 is based on the police funding formula which provides an assessment of the relative need of each police force in England and Wales. This assessment is based on the social characteristics of each police authority, including its population, which are considered to affect the level of demand for police services in the community. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) also receives a range of specific grants to reflect its local and national responsibilities.

The MPS continues to receive an annual special payment as part of its police grant, in recognition of its unique capital city and national functions.

Details for the last five years are set out in the table.

Metropolitan Police Service funding 2003-04 to 2007-08

£ million

	General grant	Specific grants	Total
2003-04	1,764.1	288.3	2,052.4
2004-05	1,822.0	311.1	2,133.1
2005-06	1,763.6	490.9	2,254.5
2006-07	1,823.5	558.9	2,382.4
2007-08	1,883.7	578.4	2,462.1

Notes:
1. Prior to 2006-07 pensions and security arrangements were included within General Grant. General Grant figure for 2005-06 has been adjusted to allow direct comparison with 2006-07.
2. The MPS continues to receive an annual special payment as part of its police grant in recognition of its unique capital city and national functions. This was £192 million in 2007-08.

Police: Criminal Investigation

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers were subject to criminal investigation in the last year for which figures are available. [121909]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not collect the information requested.

Police: Culture and Recruitment

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department provides guidance to police forces on the suitability of recruits who follow cultural practices which require them not to shake hands with certain members of the public or otherwise behave in a way which makes it difficult for them fully to engage with members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [111610]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has issued no guidance on this issue.

Police: Freedom of Information

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Freedom of Information requests to each police authority in England and Wales have not received a statutory response within 21 days. [127348]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* It is for each individual relevant public authority to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Police: Gloucestershire

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fully qualified police officers are on duty in the South Gloucestershire district on a typical Friday evening. [127695]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* The deployment of police officers to the basic command units of Avon and Somerset constabulary is an operational matter for the chief constable.

Police: Interpreters

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the Metropolitan Police Service's budget was spent on interpretation services for suspects in the most recent year for which figures are available. [125224]

Mr. McNulty: The expenditure on interpretation services is a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of interpreters' fees upon police resources; and if he will make a statement. [125628]

Mr. McNulty: The information for all police forces in England and Wales is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The expenditure on interpreters is a matter for the chief officer of each constabulary.

Police: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed by Lancashire police each year since 1997. [127460]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2170.

Police: Modernisation

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcome was of his meeting on 5 March with police forces from England and Wales on the development of the Work Force Modernisation Project. [127916]

Mr. McNulty: A number of police forces and authorities expressing an interest in the workforce modernisation programme were present at the meeting. They were asked to provide confirmation of their commitment to become a demonstrator site by 16 March 2007. Once these are collated the programme team, under the authority of the Association of Chief Police Officers with the Association of Police Authorities and the Home Office, will consider each application and inform the successful forces.

Police: Pensions

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the potential annual cost of extending the survivor benefits of the new Police Pension Scheme to the spouses and civil partners of officers who died whilst on duty and who are in the old Police Pension Scheme; [127708]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* spouses and *(b)* civil partners of police officers who have died while on duty who would lose their survivor benefits under the Police Pension Scheme were they to remarry or cohabit. [127726]

Mr. McNulty: Under the provisions for police injury benefits, which are not dependent on pension scheme membership, a special or augmented pension of up to half the officer's pensionable pay is payable to a surviving spouse or civil partner where the officer dies as a result of an injury received without their own default in the execution of their duty as a constable. Under the Police Pension Scheme 1987 (old scheme) an ordinary pension of up to one third the officer's pensionable pay is payable to a surviving spouse or civil partner where the officer dies in service, whether or not they were on duty at the time.

Police pensions and police injury benefits are administrated locally by the police authority for the force concerned and details of the number of surviving spouses and civil partners of officers who died while on duty and of the cost of their pensions are not held centrally. However, it is estimated that in the region of 400 surviving spouses are in receipt of a special or augmented pension in the UK. About half of this number are in respect of police officers who died in Northern Ireland. No separate estimate has been made of the number of surviving civil partners in receipt of such a pension but the estimate given for spouses can still be taken to include civil partners in view of the relatively short time since the start of civil partnerships.

The Government Actuary's Department has estimated that the capitalised extra cost of making these pensions life-long to be between £10 million and £20 million. This estimate is indicative only since it is subject to a considerable degree of uncertainty. The capital cost would manifest itself in additional cash expenditure over a period of decades peaking in 10 to 20 years' time. This cost only relates to survivor pensions currently in payment. There would also be additional costs relating to pensions to spouses and civil partners of police officers who die in the future as result of an injury received in the execution of their duty. The cost does not include the reinstatement of any pension that has already ceased on remarriage, formation of a civil partnership or cohabitation, or the backdating of any such restored pension.

The Government Actuary's Department has also estimated the capitalised extra cost of making all survivor pensions life-long where they are payable upon an officer's death in service (i.e. ordinary pensions as well as special and augmented pensions) to be between £50 million to £100 million.

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the ability of police forces to recruit Criminal Investigation Department officers. [127349]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* Recruitment of police officers to Criminal Investigation Departments is a matter for the chief constables of individual police forces.

Prisoners: Females

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to ensure that communication is maintained between female prisoners and their families who live *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [127917]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is a statutory entitlement to social visits and correspondence. Social visitors who are United Kingdom residents may qualify for financial assistance. Contact may also be maintained by telephone. Foreign nationals or those with close family abroad who have not received a social visit within the preceding month may also receive a five minute telephone call at public expense. Family contact for all prisoners, in particular women with children, is supported by local arrangements.

Prisoners: Telephones

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors determine the price of international telephone calls charged to prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [127918]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Negotiations between the Home Office and the prisoner telephone contractors, which are commercially in confidence, determine the price of international telephone calls charged to prisoners.

Prisons: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what vetting procedures prison imams undergo prior to employment; and whether they have been revised since 2001. [127951]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Imams are subject to the same checks as those for all chaplains and include checks on: identity; proof of address; entitlement to work in the UK; criminal record check; references; qualifications, endorsement from the relevant faith adviser and national security vetting. Security vetting procedures are kept under review and a number of enhancements have been made since 2001.

Prisons: Religion

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what facilities are offered to non-Christian worshippers in HM prisons; and what the costs of these facilities were in each of the last five years. [127562]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service policy is to enable those prisoners who wish, to practise their religion. The Prison Service Performance Standard on Religion (No. 51) and the Prison Service Order on Religion (4550) sets out the more detailed policy and includes specific information on the provision necessary for the practice of the main world faiths, including Islam. Copies of Prison Service orders are kept in the House Library and both Prison Service orders and performance standards are also published on the Prison Service website (www.hmprisons.gov.uk). The requested information on costs is not available.

Road Traffic Control: Eastern Region

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* traffic enforcement officers, *(b)* traffic wardens and *(c)* council parking attendants were operating in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk, (vii) St. Edmundsbury borough council area and (viii) Mid Suffolk district council area in each year since 1997. [128016]

Mr. McNulty: Data for the numbers of traffic wardens and traffic enforcement officers are not centrally collected at the district or borough level, however data for the numbers of traffic wardens and for the numbers of officers whose primary function is traffic are collected at force level and are given in the tables. There has over the years been a transfer of responsibility for traffic wardens from the police to local authorities.

Data on the number of council parking attendants are not collected centrally.

Traffic warden strength as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006 (FTE)[1]

	31 March									
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Bedfordshire	31	26	10	9	3	3	2	2	0	0
Cambridgeshire	39	33	38	35	38	36	35	17	0	0
Essex	136	123	121	102	82	59	38	21	8	7
Hertfordshire	72	55	44	38	45	42	38	9	0	0
Norfolk	43	43	40	37	33	34	33	31	28	26
Suffolk	33	32	33	31	29	29	25	25	20	18

[1] Full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Special Constables: Recruitment

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the target of recruiting 14,000 special constables by March 2007 has been met; and if he will make a statement. [127422]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The Police Service Strength statistical bulletin published on 26 July 2006 shows that on 31 March 2006 there were 13,179 special constables in England and Wales. Figures for 31 March 2007 will be published in July this year.

Stop and Search

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* stop and account and *(b)* stop and search forms were completed by each police force in England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [122932]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2007]:* The last year for which figures are available for stop and searches are 2004-05 and are shown in the following table below. These figures reflect the number of stop and searches recorded by each police force area in relation to powers under section one of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, and other legislation; section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

From 1 April 2005, police forces have been required to collect figures on the recording of encounters by police officers in accordance with paragraphs 4.11 - 4.20 of the PACE code of practice on exercise by police officers of statutory powers of stop and search (Code A). Issues relating to the quality and completeness of the 2005-06 figures mean they remain subject to further work before they can be published by the Home Office, however police forces are able to use their data for local accountability.

'Stop and searches' of persons under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, and other legislation, 2004-05

Police force area	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	17,897
Bedfordshire	3,507
Cambridgeshire	5,328
Cheshire	13,536
Cleveland	14,367
Cumbria	5,702
Derbyshire	10,592
Devon and Cornwall	21,096
Dorset	6,160
Durham	9,317
Essex	8,131
Gloucestershire	4,018
Greater Manchester	58,118
Hampshire	24,336
Hertfordshire	12,083
Humberside	6,159
Kent	11,482
Lancashire	21,642
Leicestershire	13,597
Lincolnshire	6,878
London, City of	6,915
Merseyside	21,354
Metropolitan Police	237,104
Norfolk	6,345
Northamptonshire	7,123
Northumbria	24,698
North Yorkshire	3,832
Nottinghamshire	4,318
South Yorkshire	24,151
Staffordshire	19,525
Suffolk	4,274
Surrey	9,755
Sussex	12,312
Thames Valley	20,542
Warwickshire	5,713
West Mercia	9,327

'Stop and searches' of persons under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, and other legislation, 2004-05

Police force area	Total
West Midlands	30,119
West Yorkshire	74,256
Wiltshire	4,648
Dyfed-Powys	8,316
Gwent	6,059
North Wales	11,899
South Wales	13,446
England and Wales	839,977

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Vandalism

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of vandalism were reported in *(a)* England, *(b)* Suffolk, *(c)* Bedfordshire, *(d)* Cambridgeshire, *(e)* Essex, *(f)* Hertfordshire and *(g)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [127868]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to offences of criminal damage recorded by the police and the information is in the tables.

Table 1: Offences of criminal damage recorded by the police—1997

	Number
England	822,029
Suffolk	7,835
Bedfordshire	8,025
Cambridgeshire	9,250
Essex	18,845
Hertfordshire	9,831
Norfolk	9,782

Table 2: Offences of criminal damage recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	Number 2001-02
England	823,520	890,756	906,800	1,007,634
Suffolk	7,898	9,547	10,150	12,095
Bedfordshire	7,893	8,048	7,892	8,191
Cambridgeshire	11,925	12,110	13,197	13,972
Essex	18,834	21,766	24,673	26,990
Hertfordshire	10,177	11,560	13,839	15,302
Norfolk	10,393	10,978	11,481	13,065

Note:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of criminal damage recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2005-06

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Number 2005-06
England	1,043,197	1,139,308	1,121,057	1,107,752
Suffolk	11,497	12,817	12,781	13,067
Bedfordshire	10,050	11,065	10,561	10,817
Cambridgeshire	16,153	16,534	16,227	14,680
Essex	30,337	34,253	32,406	30,564
Hertfordshire	17,988	19,887	20,762	20,986
Norfolk	16,030	17,462	17,470	17,577

Note:
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Young Offenders: Mental Health Services

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young offenders were referred to *(a)* acute local child and adolescent mental health services and *(b)* non-acute local child and adolescent mental health services in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [126058]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is shown in the table.

Referrals to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) by youth offending teams for each year since 2002

	Acute	Non-acute
2002	510	2,052
2003	936	6,427
2004	833	6,102
2005	689	5,937
2006	525	6,440

Source:
Youth Justice Board.

A combined screening and assessment method for mental health, physical health and substance misuse of young people in the young peoples estate is currently in development and planning for the implementation stage is under way. This project is supported by a cross-departmental working group of National Treatment Agency, Youth Justice Board, Prison Health and Prison Service Women and Young People Group.

A new framework "Promoting Mental Health for Children held in Secure Settings: A Framework for Commissioning Services", developed in partnership by the Department of Health, Home Office, Youth Justice Board and Department for Education and Skills, will be launched this month and will set out best practice guidelines for commissioning services for children in secure settings.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on advertising with *The Guardian* newspaper, including online, in the last year for which figures are available. [114072]

Alan Johnson: Newspaper advertising for the Department is done via the Central Office of Information (COI) and the information provided covers all newspaper advertising. The COI does not hold information specifically on advertising space in *The Guardian* newspaper.

The total spent by the Department on all newspaper advertising, across a number of different campaigns, using different newspapers is:

Financial year

2005-06

Cost

£1.50 million

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people who passed the complete framework for *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships also achieved a technical certificate as part of their apprenticeship course in each year between 1997 and 2006. [127429]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* These data are not held in the form specified. The data collected measure those who complete all elements required of the particular framework undertaken. However, since 2001 separately assessed underpinning knowledge has been a compulsory part of apprenticeship frameworks. Up to 2005 this had to take the form of a technical certificate, even where there was duplication of content between qualifications. Therefore all apprentices completing in this period would have passed a technical certificate in order to complete the full framework. Since 2005 and following consultation, sector bodies have had the flexibility to deliver underpinning knowledge through an NVQ where it can be demonstrated to the Apprenticeship Approvals Group that this will remove duplication. So far the two major frameworks to integrate underpinning knowledge into the NVQ are in accountancy and hairdressing. Most of their learners will not yet have completed under the new arrangements.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding his Department makes available for those over the age of 25 years for apprenticeships. [127586]

Phil Hope: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has announced funding for 8,000 apprenticeship places for people over the age of 25 in 2007-08 at a cost of £16.7 million.

Art: Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the funding levels for fine art courses in *(a)* further education, *(b)* work-based learning, *(c)* adult and community learning and *(d)* sixth form colleges were in each year from 1997 to 2006; and what the budgeted levels of funding are in each of the next three years. [127444]

Bill Rammell: We have increased investment in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2005. Adult funding will increase by 7 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2007-08 with funding for young people increasing by 13 per cent. over the same period. This means that overall in 2007-08 through the LSC we will invest £11.2 billion, an increase of £716 million compared with 2006-07.

Information on course subjects that learners are undertaking is available only from the LSC at the broad sector level. This does not allow for discrete subjects such as fine art to be identified, and therefore it is not possible to provide details on the level of funding for these courses.

As the Department has not yet received it Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) settlement, I am not in a position to announce the funding levels for specific programmes during the CSR period.

Compensation Payments

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much in compensation payments was paid by his Department in 2005-06; and what the reason was for each payment. [108199]

Mr. Dhanda: Compensation payments made by the Department in 2005-06 were as follows:

Reason for payment	*Payment amount (£)*
Damage to personal property—clothing damaged by contaminated water flooding from pipes in ceiling	77.20
Damage to personal property—motorcycle helmet damaged when car park barrier came down on staff member's head	269.99
Personal injury—injury to neck when car park barrier came down on staff member's head. Physiotherapy treatment required.	210.00
Road traffic accident—DfES driver collided with external third party in road traffic accident. Third party claim for repair of damages to vehicle and hire car costs	7,144.87
Damage to personal property—clothing damaged on sharp edge of desk	23.38
Damage to personal property—watch damaged by premature closing of lift doors	40.00
Damage to personal property—clothing damaged	16.24
Road traffic accident—DfES driver collided with external third party in road traffic accident. Third party claim for repair of damages to vehicle	5,596.04
Personal injury—DfES driver collided with external third party in road traffic accident. Personal injury claim from passenger in third party's vehicle. Compensation and medical costs sought	4,483.00
Road traffic accident—DfES driver collided with external third party in road traffic accident. Third party claim for repair of damages to vehicle	364.62
Personal injury—injury to head and shoulders when whiteboard fell off wall and hit staff member. Compensation and medical costs sought	3,200.00
Compensation for loss of interest due to delay in making an ex-gratia payment for loss of employment	412.67
Compensation for unfair dismissal of a temporary employee following a ruling by the Civil Service Appeal Board	13,504.00
Ex-gratia payment for loss of employment as part of a compromise agreement to settle a dispute and avoid subsequent litigation	13,400.00
Total of compensation payments in 2005-06	48,742.01

Departmental Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his Department's expenditure was on hospitality and entertainment in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2005-06. [114068]

Alan Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's answer of 9 February 1998, *Official Report*, column 17W, to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire, which provides the global figure for Government expenditure on ministerial entertaining and hospitality for official purposes in 1996-97.

The Department for Education and Skills' expenditure on entertainment by civil servants for 1996-97 was £24,000.

The Department's expenditure covering civil servants' as well as ministerial costs on entertainment for 2005-06 was £20,000.

Departmental Staff

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff were employed on a consultancy basis in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in each of the last five years for which information is available; and what the (i) average and (ii) longest period was for which a consultant was employed in each year. [102979]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of consultants engaged by the Department is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* marketing officers, *(b)* communication officers, *(c)* press officers and *(d)* promotional officers are employed in his Department; and what estimate he has made of the total expenditure on communications for the Department on (i) Government Information and Communication Service staff and (ii) other (A) press officers, (B) special advisers and (C) staff in the last year for which figures are available. [104223]

Alan Johnson: The number of staff involved in communications as at 1 March 2007 is as follows:

	Number
Press Officers	21
Marketing Officers	37

It is not possible to break down expenditure by types of communications staff. There are no special advisers in the communications function.

The total amount spent on advertising in 2005-06 was £8.3 million. This includes radio, TV and press advertising and is exclusive of VAT.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his Department's expenditure on foreign travel, including accommodation, was in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2005-06. [114069]

Alan Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's answer on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1808W, to a similar question from the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire, which refers to the published annual list of overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers which includes the overall cost of all Ministers' overseas travel.

The Department for Education and Skills' expenditure on civil servants' foreign travel, including accommodation is set out in the following table. The figures are taken from the Department's financial systems.

	Expenditure on foreign travel (£000)
1996-97	883
2005-06	251

Departments: Discrimination

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department has undertaken to ensure the implementation of age discrimination regulations across his Department. [127587]

Mr. Dhanda: Equality of opportunity for all is of paramount importance within the Department and my officials have been pro-active in ensuring the age discrimination regulations are adhered to. In light of this the Department has considered and reviewed all the HR policies and processes that were in place prior to the implementation of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. That review led to us introducing, from 1 October 2006, a policy where we have no maximum retirement age for people outside the senior civil service, and procedures where there is no mention of a date of birth on applications, for example, for recruitment or promotion.

Furthermore the Secretary of State and the Learning and Skills Council have both been involved in drawing the attention of the FE sector to the age legislation through correspondence with FE governing bodies and by issuing guidance to learning providers. Higher education institutions have been supported in this area by the Equality Challenge Unit, which is the sector body responsible for providing advice and guidance on equality issues to these bodies.

Departments: Electronic Government

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reason an individual must be at least 19 years of age to register with his Department's e-consultation website. [126912]

Phil Hope: Access to the Department's e-consultation website is open to all, whether or not they are registered with the site, and young people under 19 are able to participate in our e-consultations. Registration only means that the site retains individuals' details, enabling them to receive e-mail alerts about future consultations and giving the flexibility to partially complete a consultation and then return to it at a later date.

Registration is limited to those aged 19 and over in order to ensure that personal data about children and young people is not held on the website, in compliance with the Data Protection Act. The system neither asks for, nor retains, any identification information from non registered users.

The Department actively encourages children and young people to participate in consultation and engage with the Department, often producing young people's versions of consultation questionnaires. A recent example of this was the Young People's Guide to the Care Matters Green Paper in 2006; over 1,000 young people and children gave an input to this consultation.

Education Maintenance Allowance

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of young people in *(a)* Penrith and The Border constituency, *(b)* Cumbria, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England received education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme's inception; and how many received (i) £30, (ii) £20 and (iii) £10 a week in each case in each year. [124005]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the DfES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 12 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 124005 that asked: "What percentage of young people in (a) Penrith and The Border constituency, (b) Cumbria, (c) the North West and (d) England received education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme's inception; and how many received (i) £30, (ii) £20 and (iii) £10 a week in each case in each year."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following tables show EMA take-up data split by payment band for Cumbria Local Authority area, the North West and England during each academic year since the scheme's inception.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

	Band			
	£30	*£20*	*£10*	*Total*
2004/05				
Cumbria	1,666	226	268	2,160
North West	42,295	4,340	4,379	51,014
England	242,262	27,398	27,599	297,259
2005/06				
Cumbria	2,985	405	358	3,748
North West	58,732	5,771	4,363	68,866
England	359,213	39,824	30,590	429,627
2006/07[1]				
Cumbria	3,505	500	471	4,476
North West	66,975	7,391	6,386	80,752
England	409,303	50,170	44,268	503,741

[1] To end February.

In the first year of national roll-out, EMA was available to all 16-years-old across England and to 17 and 18-year-olds in former pilot areas. (Young people aged 19 were entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances.) In 2005/06 EMA roll-out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17-year-olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA is available to all 16, 17 and 18-year-olds nationally. In calculating the percentage of young people receiving EMA only take-up and population figures for age groups where EMA was available nationally have been used.

The following table shows the percentage of young people receiving EMA in Cumbria Local Authority area, the North West and England during each academic year since national roll-out.

Percentage of population receiving EMA in each academic year

	2004/05[1]	*2005/06*[2]	*2006/07*[3, 4]
Cumbria	32	27	23
North West	46	42	36
England	33	30	25

[1] 16-year-olds only [2] 16 and 17-year-olds. [3] 16, 17 and 18-year-olds. [4] To end January.

I hope this information is useful and addresses your question.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what percentage of young people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme's inception; [122059]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received (i) £30, (ii) £20 and (iii) £10 a week in education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme's inception. [122060]

Phil Hope: The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a devolved matter. In England, this is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate EMA for the DfES and hold the information about take-up of the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 12 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your parliamentary question 122059 and 122060 that asked:

"What percentage of young people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme's inception" and;

"How many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received (i) 30, (ii) 20 and (iii) 10 a week in education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme's inception."

EMA was piloted in 55 areas before launching the national scheme and South Tyneside local authority was a pilot area. The following data covers the start of the national roll out of EMA in the academic year 2004/05 and onwards.

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received education maintenance allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at

constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following tables show EMA take-up data split by payment band for South Tyneside local authority area, the North East and England during each academic year since national roll out.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

2004-05

	Band			
	£30	*£20*	*£10*	*Total*
South Tyneside	1,353	126	157	1,636
North East	15,698	1,753	1,958	19,409
England	242,507	27,429	27,632	297,568

2005-06

	Band			
	£30	*£20*	*£10*	*Total*
South Tyneside	1,538	117	116	1,771
North East	21,609	2,282	1,864	25,755
England	359,792	39,892	30,643	430,327

2006-07 to end January

	Band			
	£30	*£20*	*£10*	*Total*
South Tyneside	1,681	169	136	1,986
North East	24,559	2,867	2,593	30,019
England	406,319	49,863	43,993	500,175

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16-years-olds across England and to 17 and 18-years-olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005-06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17-year-olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA is available to all 16, 17 and 18-year-olds nationally. In calculating the percentage of young people receiving EMA only take up and population figures for age groups where EMA was available nationally have been used.

Percentage of population receiving EMA in each academic year

	2004/05 (16-year-olds only)	*2005/06 (16 and 17-year-olds)*	*2006/07 to end January (16, 17 and 18-year-olds)*
South Tyneside	39	36	32
North East	38	35	29
England	33	30	25

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students claimed the education maintenance allowance in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster in each of the last three years. [122789]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate EMA for the DfES and hold the information about take-up of the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 12 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 122789 that asked; "How many students claimed the Education Maintenance Allowance in (a) Barnsley and (b) Doncaster in each of the last three years?"

The following table shows Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) take-up for Barnsley and Doncaster Local Authority areas during each academic year since the introduction of the allowance. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

	2004/05	*2005/06*	*[1]2006/07*
Barnsley	1,821	2,071	2,463
Doncaster	2,707	2,912	3,287

[1] To end February

I hope this information is useful and addresses your question.

Education: Guardian Newspapers

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much was spent by his Department on the 14 to 19 reforms supplement it sponsored in *The Guardian* newspaper on 6 March; [127230]

(2) which civil servants within his Department contributed to the 14 to 19 reforms supplement in *The Guardian* newspaper on 6 March. [127231]

Jim Knight: The Department spent £42,000 on *The Guardian* Supplement covering the 14 to 19 reform programme. The 14 to 19 reforms will impact on a range of stakeholders and through the supplement we were able to inform head teachers, teachers and lecturers in schools and colleges, HE professionals, and the wider public about the reforms. We believe that this is good value for money as we were able to reach a large section of our target audience. As the 14 to 19 programme will require schools and colleges to collaborate in the future, and teaching of the diplomas will start from September 2008 we increasingly need to inform our target audiences about the reforms and the impact that they will have on them. We will therefore continue to promote the 14 to 19 reform programme across a range of news media over the next few months.

Although civil servants within the 14 to 19 reform group briefed *The Guardian* on the 14 to 19 reforms, the content of the supplement was written by *Guardian* journalists. As with most supplements of this nature officials from within the Department and across our partners were given the opportunity to correct factual errors within the final document. Final editorial control for the article was retained by *The Guardian*.

Employment Schemes: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to open the Train to Gain project in London to contestability by the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [126581]

Phil Hope: Train to Gain is already contestable in London, as in all regions. This means that employers are given a choice of training providers, wherever possible, to help them meet their business needs on the basis of analysis carried out by brokers. Training providers may be sourced from the public or private sector.

Employment Schemes: Incentives

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure brokers under the Train to Gain programme are incentivised to arrange placements, rather than visits to employers which do not result in placements; and if he will make a statement. [126580]

Phil Hope: Train to Gain brokers are incentivised on the basis of employer engagements, rather than on visits. An employer is considered to be engaged where the broker has undertaken an analysis of training needs and identified suitable providers. The Learning and Skills Council is actively performance managing the organisations contracted to deliver the service to ensure their effectiveness and efficiency.

English Language

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which individuals are entitled to free tuition on Entry 1 and Entry 2 level English for Speakers of Other Languages Courses. [126633]

Phil Hope: The Learning and Skills Council sets out the eligibility criteria for fee remission in the funding guidance for further education, updated each year.

Currently all English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision is fully funded, with free tuition for all learners. From August 2007/08 it is proposed that in order to receive fee remission an ESOL learner must fall into standard fee remission categories, for example, that they are in receipt of an income based benefit such as housing benefit.

The fee remission categories are set out in paragraph 127 of the Funding guidance for further education in 2006/07 and include:

unemployed people in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance;

those in receipt of income-based benefits, formerly known as means-tested benefits, the main income-based benefits are council tax benefit, housing benefit, income support and jobseeker's allowance (income-based);

those in receipt of working tax credit with a household income of less than £15,050;

those in receipt of pension credits-guarantee credit;

the unwaged dependants (as defined by Jobcentre Plus) of those listed above.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning has considered the impact of the proposed changes to ESOL funding following the race equality impact assessment (REIA) and he is minded to consider a range of new measures to reprioritise funding towards the most vulnerable. These are:

Reinstating eligibility for those asylum seekers who are in the UK legally and whose claims are not resolved within six months;

Reinstating eligibility for those asylum seekers who are unable to return or be returned to their country of origin for circumstances beyond their control and who are eligible for section 4 support;

Prioritising funding at local level through the Learning and Skills Council's Learner Hardship Support Fund towards support for spouses and individuals who may not have access to their household benefit documentation or their own funds; and

Agreeing with the Learning and Skills Council an approach to evidencing low pay for fee remission purposes which enables flexible use of a raft of evidence, including wider benefits and other evidence.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning has asked officials to work with the Learning and Skills Council and other partners to finalise the detail urgently.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether English for Speakers of Other Languages provision at Entry 1 and Entry 2 levels is eligible for funding from the Learning and Skills Council; and if he will make a statement. [126634]

Bill Rammell: All Skills for Life English for Speakers of Other Languages provision at Entry 1 and Entry 2 levels is currently eligible for funding from the Learning and Skills Council and will continue to be so for 2007/08.

English Language: Adult Education

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what mechanisms are available to applicants for English for Speakers of other Languages classes to appeal against assessments that they should pay a proportion of course costs. [126131]

Phil Hope: There is no formal appeals procedure. Where applicants are not eligible for the fee remission for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses, the charging of fees is at the discretion of individual institutions.

From 2007/08 to receive fee remission for any course a learner must prove that they fall into a fee remission category, for example, that they are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or an income-based benefit.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning has considered the impact of the proposed changes to ESOL funding following the Race Equality Impact Assessment (REIA) and he is minded to consider a range of new measures to reprioritise funding towards the most vulnerable. These are:

Re-instating eligibility for those asylum seekers who are in the UK legally and whose claims are not resolved within six months;

Re-instating eligibility for those asylum seekers who are unable to return or be returned to their country of origin for circumstances beyond their control and who are eligible for section 4 support;

Prioritising funding at local level through the Learning and Skills Council's Learner Hardship Support Fund towards support for spouses and individuals who may not have access to their household benefit documentation or their own funds; and

Agreeing with the Learning and Skills Council an approach to evidencing low pay for fee remission purposes which enables flexible use of a raft of evidence, including wider benefits and other evidence.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning has asked officials to work with the Learning and Skills Council and other partners to finalise the detail urgently.

English Language: Equal Opportunities

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will conduct a race equality impact assessment on the changes to English speakers of other languages provision which will be in place from September 2007. [126635]

Phil Hope: A race equality impact assessment regarding the changes to English for speakers of other languages is now complete and will be published shortly.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning has considered the impact of the proposed changes to ESOL funding following the race equality impact assessment (REIA) and he is minded to consider a range of new measures to reprioritise funding towards the most vulnerable. These are:

Re-instating eligibility for those asylum seekers who are in the UK legally and whose claims are not resolved within six months;

Re-instating eligibility for those asylum seekers who are unable to return or be returned to their country of origin for circumstances beyond their control and who are eligible for Section 4 support;

Prioritising funding at local level through the Learning and Skills Council's Learner Hardship Support Fund towards support for spouses and individuals who may not have access to their household benefit documentation or their own funds; and

Agreeing with the Learning and Skills Council an approach to evidencing low pay for fee remission purposes which enables flexible use of a raft of evidence, including wider benefits and other evidence.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning has asked officials to work with the Learning and Skills Council and other partners to finalise the detail urgently.

Funding

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much funding per pupil was given to state-funded secondary schools in *(a)* the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames and *(b)* the London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [126175]

(2) how much funding per pupil was received by state-funded secondary schools in *(a)* the London Borough of Hammersmith and *(b)* the London Borough of Wandsworth in the last year for which figures are available; [126575]

(3) how much funding per pupil was received on average by state-funded secondary schools *(a)* in London and *(b)* in each London borough in the last year for which figures are available. [126585]

Jim Knight: The following table details the funding per pupil aged 11 to 15 for all London local authorities in 2005-06, the latest year for which a funding figure for secondary schools is available.

LEA	*Funding per pupil aged 11 to 15 (£)*
London	5,780
Barking and Dagenham	5,320
Barnet	5,190
Bexley	4,680
Brent	6,110
Bromley	4,790
Camden	6,860
Croydon	5,260
Ealing	5,900
Enfield	5,230
Greenwich	6,520
Hackney	7,870
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,870
Haringey	6,440
Harrow	5,170
Havering	4,740
Hillingdon	5,100
Hounslow	5,510
Islington	7,290
Kensington and Chelsea	7,240
Kingston upon Thames	4,850
Lambeth	7,650
Lewisham	7,040
Merton	5,300
Newham	6,020
Redbridge	4,840
Richmond upon Thames	4,830
Southwark	7,330
Sutton	4,750
Tower Hamlets	7,430
Waltham Forest	5,730
Wandsworth	6,460
Westminster	6,520

Notes:
1. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements, including the pensions transfer to EFS.
2. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 11 to 15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
3. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
4. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
5. Figures are in cash and rounded to the nearest 10.

Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by British firms in each year since 2000. [105141]

Alan Johnson: The Department for Education and Skills uses the Office of Government framework contracts to purchase bulk office furniture. The main suppliers used are Pentos, Paragon, Orangebox and Herman Miller, all of whom supply British made furniture. A breakdown of the spend on this make of furniture since 2000 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Further Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of 16-year-olds went on to *(a)* A levels, *(b)* further education, *(c)* other vocational training and *(d)* higher education in each local authority in the last period for which figures are available. [126913]

Jim Knight: The Department publishes annual statistics on the participation in education and training by 16 and 17-year-olds in each local area in England. The latest publication can be viewed here: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000645/index.shtml. It refers to those of academic age 16 resident in the local authority at the end of 2004. This publication is the source of the figures used to answer this question.

(a) There is no information on the study aim of 16-year-olds at the local level. The column (a) in the attached table gives the proportion of 16-year-olds in each local authority who were in full-time education at school (maintained or independent). Not all of these will have been studying A levels, some will have been studying other vocational qualifications or qualifications below A level.

(b) Column (b) in the attached table gives the proportion of 16-year-olds in each local authority studying in full-time education in a further education college including sixth form colleges.

(c) Column (c) in the attached table gives the proportion of 16-year-olds in each local authority participating in government supported work-based learning. There is no information at a local level of those participating in other non-government funded vocational training.

(d) There are very few 16-year-olds in higher education (less than 1 per cent. of the population). They are not available on a consistent basis at a local level as information is only available on the location of the institute rather than where the young person resides. Information on 16-year-olds in higher education at a local level is therefore not available.

To complete the table there is a final column of other 16-year-olds participating in part-time education to give a total participating in education and work-based learning.

GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what proportion of 15-year-olds attending *(a)* independent schools and *(b)* maintained schools achieved five or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics in each year since 1997; [122062]

(2) when he will reply to Question 122062, on GCSEs, tabled on 16 February 2007 by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. [127365]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the table as follows.

Percentage achieving 5 A-C including English and mathematics GCSE*

	Maintained	*Independent*
1997	34.3	81.6
1998	35.6	81.5
1999	37.4	82.5
2000	38.7	83.2
2001	37.8	77.6
2002	39.2	78.7
2003	39.1	77.9
2004	39.9	76.7
2005	42.0	73.9
2006	43.4	69.3

Headteachers: Kent

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many Academy head teachers in Kent have previously been employed by Oxfordshire county council; [119871]

(2) how many secondary head teachers in Kent have previously been employed by Oxfordshire county council. [119872]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 February 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Higher Education Student Numbers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2071-72W, on higher education student numbers, what percentage of applicants from *(a)* England and *(b)* the North East region went on to become undergraduate students at English universities in each of the last seven years. [128206]

Bill Rammell: The available information is taken from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and is given in the table. The majority of students applying for full-time undergraduate courses apply to UCAS, but a small number apply directly to institutions.

Applicants, acceptances and acceptance rates through UCAS to full-time higher education courses from England and the North East region, UK higher education institutions, year of entry 2000 to 2006

	English domiciles			*Of which: from the North East*		
Year of entry	*Applicants*	*Acceptances*	*Acceptance rate (Percentage)*	*Applicants*	*Acceptances*	*Acceptance rate (Percentage)*
2000	321,343	255,734	79.6	14,561	11,993	82.4
2001	330,856	270,699	81.8	15,101	12,650	83.8
2002	331,602	275,583	83.1	15,146	12,661	83.6
2003	337,593	276,930	82.0	15,841	12,984	82.0

Applicants, acceptances and acceptance rates through UCAS to full-time higher education courses from England and the North East region, UK higher education institutions, year of entry 2000 to 2006

	English domiciles			Of which: from the North East		
Year of entry	Applicants	Acceptances	Acceptance rate (Percentage)	Applicants	Acceptances	Acceptance rate (Percentage)
2004	339,967	277,079	81.5	15,571	12,652	81.3
2005	368,801	301,798	81.8	16,360	13,500	82.5
2006	358,067	289,229	80.8	16,127	13,229	82.0

Source:
UCAS annual datasets.

Higher Education: Research

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many permanent academic research posts were funded in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07; and what percentage this number was of all academic research posts funded in each year. [127849]

Bill Rammell: The information is shown in the following tables. Data for academic years 1997/98 to 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 2005/06, the latest year available, are shown separately to take account of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's revision of its staff data collection methodology in 2003-04.

Table 1: Academic staff[1] employed in research-only activities at English higher education institutions, 1997/8 to 2002/03

Academic year	Permanent research-only posts	Total research-only posts	Permanent posts as a percentage of all research-only posts
1997/98	1,830	30,810	5.9
1998/99	2,035	31,325	6.5
1999/2000	1,905	33,470	5.7
2000/01	2,055	35,155	5.8
2001/02	2,020	36,255	5.6
2002/03	2,365	36,945	6.4

[1] A count of active contracts for academic staff with 25 percent.+ full time equivalent only.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2: Academic staff[1] employed in research-only activities in English higher education institutions, 2003/04 to 2005/06

Academic year	Open ended/permanent research-only posts	Total	Permanent posts as a percentage of all research-only posts
2003/04	2,465	29,375	8.4
2004/05	3,210	29,410	10.9
2005/06	4,715	30,610	15.4

[1] A count of staff with one or more active contracts.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

History: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what policy considerations affected the decision to include the study of the second world war and Nazi holocaust in the key stage 3 history curriculum. [127323]

Jim Knight: The two world wars and the Holocaust have been compulsory elements of the key stage 3 history curriculum since 1995. Pupils should study the causes and consequences of various conflicts including the two world wars and the Holocaust and develop an understanding of the changing nature of conflict over time and attempts to resolve conflict.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what policy considerations affected the decision to include the study of the slave trade in the key stage three history curriculum. [127325]

Jim Knight: Studying the nature and effects of the slave trade and its abolition will help pupils to understand the make up of the UK today and put immigration, the Commonwealth and the legacy of the empire into a clear historical context. The slave trade is already a suggested option for history teachers under the current curriculum.

Martial Arts: Schools

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which schools offer *(a)* boxing, *(b)* kick boxing, *(c)* karate and *(d)* other forms of martial arts (i) within their sports programme and (ii) as part of extended school activities. [127417]

Jim Knight: As part of the National School Sport Strategy, the annual school sport survey collects data on the provision and take up of PE and sport from schools in School Sport Partnerships. All maintained schools are now in such partnerships. Schools are asked which sports or activities they provided during the academic year, but not whether these were offered within or beyond the school day.

The 2005/06 survey (when 80 per cent. of schools were in such partnerships) found that:

1,579 schools (9 per cent. of those surveyed) offered martial arts, including kickboxing, but not judo and karate;

1,077 schools (6 per cent.) offered karate;

571 schools (3 per cent.) offered judo; and

431 schools (3 per cent.) offered boxing.

Naturalisation: English Language

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants from his Department have had with counterparts in the Home Department on the role of English language skills in citizenship and social integration. [126132]

Phil Hope: Ministers and civil servants from the Department for Education and Skills regularly meet with colleagues in the Home Office. The changes announced to ESOL in October last year were cleared through the Asylum and Migration Cabinet Committee.

Nurseries: Greater London

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many nursery places for three and four-year-olds there were in *(a)* Eltham, *(b)* the London borough of Greenwich and *(c)* London in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [126689]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the table.

	Eltham parliamentary constituency		*Greenwich local authority area*		*London*	
Year	*Three and four-year-old population*	*Number of part time funded places filled by three and four-year-olds*[1,2]	*Three and four-year-old population*	*Number of part time funded places filled by three and four-year-olds*[1,2]	*Three and four-year-old population*	*Number of part time funded places filled by three and four-year-olds*[1,2]
1997	n/a	n/a	6,400	5,000	194,900	125,700
2006	n/a	1,800	6,100	5,900	185,700	166,800

n/a = not available

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 as appropriate.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 32/2006 'Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (final)' in August, which is available on my Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Nurseries: Teaching Methods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the implications for funding for nurseries of the implementation of phonics under the Children Act 2006. [127634]

Beverley Hughes: The Government invest some £3 billion each year in delivery of the free early education entitlement to secure twelve and a half hours' free provision for 38 weeks a year for three and four-year-olds.

Nurseries receiving this funding deliver the Foundation Stage and therefore will already be implementing the preparatory work which paves the way for early reading. This work will continue when the Early Years Foundation Stage supersedes the Foundation Stage in September 2008. The Government are investing some £2 million through the Primary National Strategy to support the teaching of phonics in primary schools and early years settings.

Pre-School Education: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in nursery schools in Lancashire failed to meet expected standards in literacy and mathematical calculation in each of the last five years. [127119]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the form requested. Children's development at age five is measured by the Foundation Stage Profile which replaced statutory baseline assessment on entry to primary school. This involves a continuous observational assessment during the academic year in which a child reaches the age of five. There are no pass or fail marks but, for the purposes of the national PSA target on improving young children's outcomes, a 'good level of development' at the Foundation Stage is defined as achieving a score of at least six points on a Foundation Stage Profile Scale. A child achieving a good level of development can be deemed to be 'working securely' within the Early Learning Goals.

The following table shows the percentage of young children in the Lancashire local authority area and the North West Government Office region who achieve a score of six points or more in the assessment scales relating to the Communication, Language and Literacy and Mathematical Development areas of learning. Local authorities only supply full child data in an aggregate form and it is not possible to distinguish between nursery schools and other types of provider from this dataset. Sub-national figures are only available from 2005.

Percentage of children achieving six points or more[1,2] in the communication, language and literacy and mathematical development areas of learning on the foundation stage profile in Lancashire local authority area—2005-06

	2005			2006		
	Lancashire	North West	England	Lancashire	North West	England
Communication, language and literacy						
Language for communication and thinking	85	83	81	79	79	78
Linking sounds and letters	72	66	63	65	63	61
Reading	79	75	72	71	70	68
Writing	72	65	61	61	59	57
Mathematical development						
Numbers as labels for counting	88	88	87	87	87	87
Calculating	80	75	73	72	71	69
Shape, space and measures	89	86	84	83	82	80

[1] Children who achieve six points or more within a scale are deemed to be 'working securely' within the Early Learning Goals.
[2] Includes children in maintained schools and private, voluntary and independent providers.

Care should be exercised in comparing the results year on year. Assessment against the Foundation Stage Profile is not yet universally well established and ongoing improvements in assessment and moderation have contributed to a general downward shift in the scores, including the percentage of children working securely within the Early Learning Goals. The downward shift is apparent across most authorities but to varying degrees. While the downward shift in the figures between 2005 and 2006 reflects these improvements to moderation and assessment, the precise extent of the impact is uncertain. While many local authorities may now have settled in respect of assessment, it is possible that there will be further impact in some authorities for some time although the effects on the results are likely to reduce over time as the survey becomes more embedded.

The latest national figures on the Foundation Stage Profile for 2006 were published in a Statistical First Release 'Foundation Stage Profile 2006 (03/2007)' in January. A copy of the report and additional tables that show local authority achievement are available from the Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics

Pupils: Intimidation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were excluded *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently for bullying in schools in each year between 1997 and 2006. [126073]

Jim Knight: Information on the reasons for pupil exclusions is available from 2003/04 and has been provided in the table as follows.

Information relating to exclusions during the 2005/06 school year is expected to be available in June 2007.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions for bullying 2003/04 to 2004/05, England

	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of all permanent exclusions[3]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[3]
2003/04	150	1.5	6,750	2.0
2004/05	130	1.4	7,680	2.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] Includes maintained special schools. Excludes non-maintained special schools
[3] The number of exclusions for bullying expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.
[4] The number of exclusions for bullying has been derived from the Termly Exclusions Survey and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by local authorities as part of the Schools Census data checking exercise.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the salary is of each of the 10 highest paid employees of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. [127320]

Jim Knight: The salary of each of the 10 highest paid employees of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in February 2007 was:

£162,109
£129,000
£112,500
£110,000
£110,000
£105,000
£92,435
£90,000
£89,845
£88,146.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average ratio was of applications to places in schools which were oversubscribed in the latest period for which figures are available. [127318]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally, but may be available from individual local authorities.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much deficit was accrued by each (1) primary and (1) secondary school in each local authority area in England in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement; [122413]

(2) which schools in London ran a deficit in each of the last four years; what estimate he has made of the number of London schools likely to have a deficit at the end of 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [122423]

(3) what proportion of surplus balances at schools were uncommitted to any specific project in each year since 1997; [127076]

(4) how many schools held excessive balances in each year since 1997; [127077]

(5) what the level of surplus balances was at schools in each year since 1997. [127078]

Jim Knight: In my written ministerial statement of 15 March I announced the publication by the Department of a summary of the data on school balances for the financial years for which information is available, 1999-2000 to 2005-06. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. The information is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=58

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he expects the Consultation on School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding 2008-11 to affect *(a)* the date of implementation of the Code of Practice and *(b)* the funding arrangements to be agreed between the local education authorities and the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors. [127591]

Jim Knight: The 2006 'Code of Practice on the provision of free nursery education places for three and four-year-olds' came into force on 1 April 2006, replacing existing statutory guidance and reflecting the extension of the free entitlement from 33 to 38 weeks in private, voluntary and independent sector settings. The consultation on Schools, Early Years and 14-16 relates to funding arrangements for 2008-11.

The Government are committed to extending the early education entitlement to 15 hours free provision that can be taken more flexibly. This extension will be rolled-out nationally from 2007, starting in 20 pathfinder local authorities. To enable the funding system to support the extended entitlement, the Schools, Early Years and 14-16 consultation document sets out a range of potential changes that could be made to the early years funding system at local level. These options are designed to bring the funding systems for maintained and private, voluntary and independent provision into closer alignment, enabling local authorities to respond to parental demand for more flexible early years provision. The consultation also invites views on proposals to increase the role and effectiveness of the early years sector in local decision making on funding issues.

Decisions on the funding arrangements for 2008-11 will be taken in summer 2007 in the light of responses to the consultation and the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Schools: Fires

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was of fires in schools in 2006 in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [127195]

Jim Knight: The Department is responsible for education in England. The Department does not maintain records on the cost of fires. This is because local authorities, voluntary aided organisations, and individual schools are responsible for fire prevention and for taking out appropriate fire insurance. The Department expects financial provision to be made and planning undertaken locally for unforeseen events, including the rebuilding costs of schools damaged by fire, net of insurance.

Schools: Inspections

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with Ofsted on the implementation of changes to inspections following the provision of the foundation stage curriculum. [127633]

Beverley Hughes: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, meets with Her Majesty's Chief Inspector on a regular basis and I meet with her termly. Inspection is one of the topics frequently discussed and we are working closely with Ofsted on changes to the current arrangements to reflect the introduction and implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Ofsted is currently undertaking a series of pilot inspections based on a common approach to inspection that will be applicable across all early years settings from September 2008. The second phase of the pilots is due to commence in April.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received from community groups on the hiring of sports facilities at private finance initiative schools; and if he will make a statement. [127416]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State receives a large number of representations from many groups. Our correspondence records do not show any representations as described—to undertake further searches would incur disproportionate cost.

Science: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what policy considerations affected the decision not to include the study of the role of lung structure in gas exchange in the revised key stage three Science curriculum. [127324]

Bill Rammell: The role of lung structure in gas exchange can be covered under 'Organisms behaviour and health' in the range and content section of the proposed Key Stage 3 programme of study. Teachers will use the national curriculum planning guidance to ensure appropriate coverage of these topics, while taking full advantage of the flexibility offered by the new programme of study.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the new approach to the curriculum outlined in the secondary curriculum review. [127330]

Jim Knight: Our assessment is that the revised secondary curriculum will be effective in providing flexibility for catch-up classes for pupils who have fallen behind the expected level in English and mathematics; effective in providing flexibility to allow pupils to extend and deepen their understanding in areas where they have particular attributes and interests; and effective in providing pupils with the personal skills, attributes and practical life skills they will need for work and in their adult lives.

At the same time, it is our assessment that the revised secondary curriculum will maintain the essential elements of knowledge, skills and understanding that have stood the test of time and will equip pupils for success in further education or training and in the world of work.

Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much money from the public purse *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies gave to (i) the Smith Institute and (ii) its subsidiary SI Events Limited in each year since 1997; and for what purpose each payment was made. [123088]

Alan Johnson: The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has made the following payments to the Smith Institute:

	£
1999-2000	29.95
2000-01	5,000.00
	39.95
	39.95
	29.95

We have no record of any payments made to its subsidiary SI Events Ltd. Unfortunately, we cannot supply further information on the nature of these payments as the Department does not have immediate access to the original invoices on which the payments were based.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much special educational needs (SEN) funding was provided to students in *(a)* further education and *(b)* higher education in each year between 1997 and 2006; and if he will make a statement on his Department's submission for future levels of SEN funding in further and higher education as part of the forthcoming comprehensive spending review. [127431]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Information on the funding allocated to support learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who studied in the further education sector is in the following table.

Further Education	*Number of learners supported*	*Funding provided (£ billion)*
2003/04	579,000	1.3
2004/05	641,000	1.5

Source: LSC

Information for 2005/06 will be published in July 2007 and I will write to the hon. Gentleman once this is available. Comparable information is not available before 2003/04 as it was not collected in the same way under previous funding arrangements.

The information includes all LSC funding to support post-16 learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities studying in England. This includes learners attending further education colleges, school sixth forms and work based learning providers.

For higher education the details are as follows:

Higher Education	*Mainstream disability funding (£ million)*	*Disabled student's allowance (£ million)*	*Number of students in receipt of disabled student's allowance*
2000/01	7.0	39.2	14,500
2001/02	8.7	39.3	18,600
2002/03	9.8	50.4	24,600
2003/04	10.3	[1]—	[1]—
2004/05	10.4	70.7	32,400
2005/06	12.3	78.0	35,400

[1] A change in reporting arrangements for 2003/04 means aggregated figures are not available for this year *Source:* Student Loans Company

The information includes full-time, part-time, and postgraduate students studying in England.

As the Department has not yet received its comprehensive spending review (CSR) settlement, we are not in a position to announce the funding levels for specific programmes during the next CSR period. However, I can confirm that the costs of supporting learners with learning difficulties and disabilities have been fully integrated into our considerations for this.

Students: Debts

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the average level of personal debt existing students will have accumulated at the end of their degrees. [127770]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* The Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004/05, published on 30 March 2006, is a comprehensive study on students' income, expenditure, borrowing and debt.

It showed that English domiciled full-time students graduating in academic year 2004/05 anticipated, on average, a total debt of £7,918. For those commencing courses after the introduction of variable fees in the 2006/07 academic year we expect average student debt of around £15,000.

A generous package of support is now available to students. The Government have re-introduced non-repayable grants of up to £2,700 for full-time students. In 2006/07 around half of new full-time entrants were eligible for a full or partial grant. Non re-payable bursaries, typically worth £1,000, are available from universities and colleges to those from low income backgrounds. Additional help is available to students facing financial hardship from the Access to Learning Fund administered by individual higher education institutions.

Student loans are available for tuition fees, as well as living costs, so no student has to find their fees before or during their studies. These loans are repayable only after a student has left their course and only then when their annual income reaches £15,000. The rates of interest are well below that of commercial credit and students only pay back in real terms the amount they originally borrow.

Translation Services

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what services provided by his Department and its related agencies translation services are provided. [113884]

Mr. Dhanda: Translation services are provided by several contracted suppliers for the Department's printed publicity material.

Overseas Students: Medicine

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of medical students in the UK were non-European Economic Area nationals in each of the last five years. [122176]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths in which alcohol was the primary cause there were in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [127621]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths in which alcohol was the primary cause there were in (a) Suffolk, (b) Norfolk and (c) Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. (127621)

The attached table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in (a) Suffolk, (b) Norfolk and (c) Cambridgeshire, from 1997 to 2005 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire[2], 1997 to 2005[3]

			Deaths (persons)
	Suffolk	Norfolk	Cambridgeshire
1997	37	50	32
1998	53	64	28
1999	43	60	40
2000	50	69	36
2001	51	67	38
2002	48	70	51
2003	60	87	37
2004	65	70	45
2005	56	81	48

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the boxes below. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on county boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	ICD-9 code(s)
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5
Alcoholic fatty liver	571
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4
Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic non-alcoholic liver disease	571.8
Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Box 2. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73

Box 2. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	[1]K74
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

[1] Excluding K74.3 to K74.5

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage take-up rate of child trust funds was in each year since the scheme's inception; how many funds have had revenue allocated in each of those years; what plans he has to increase take-up; and if he will make a statement. [128414]

Ed Balls: The latest set of Child Trust Fund account opening statistics showing the number of vouchers issued and accounts opened by parents was published on 4 January 2007 by HM Revenue and Customs at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child trust funds/child-trust-funds.htm

The next set of statistics is due at the end of March.

To ensure that parents understand the choices available and to encourage them to open a Child Trust Fund account for their child, the Government will continue to run marketing activity and provide appropriate support to parents. Activities to date include the Child Trust Fund Week in January.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to increase the take-up of *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* child trust funds by use of the internet. [128415]

Ed Balls: There is a high take-up of child benefit and I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend, the Paymaster General in her reply to the question from my right hon. Friend the Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers) on 7 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1296W. The HMRC website already enables people to claim child benefit on-line, but to safeguard against fraud the claim cannot be wholly electronic. Parents must send the birth certificates for each child to the Child Benefit Office in order to validate their claim. Child Trust Fund vouchers are sent automatically to parents once child benefit has been awarded for a qualifying child.

The Child Trust Fund website www.childtrustfund.gov.uk contains useful information to encourage parents to use their Child Trust Fund voucher, including a step-by-step guide on how to open an account. This site also includes the functionality to ask for a replacement voucher over the internet if a parent has mislaid the original. In addition we provide Child Trust Fund advertising on key parenting websites and on search engines to direct people to the Child Trust Fund website and many Child Trust Fund providers allow online applications for Child Trust Fund accounts.

Civil Servants: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the impact on the Welsh economy of the proposed reduction in civil service jobs in Wales. [127854]

Mr. Timms: Since 1997 employment in Wales has increased by 11.7 per cent. with an extra 142,000 jobs created. In addition by September 2006 more than 2,400 civil service posts had been moved to Wales from London and the south-east as part of the Lyons relocation programme.

HM Treasury does not centrally hold data showing which Departments intend to make workforce reductions in Wales as part of the SR04 efficiency programme. Departments are responsible for managing their workforce strategies and for implementing their SR04 workforce reduction target.

Climate Change Levy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the change in value of the climate change levy has been since it was first announced in 1999; and if he will restore the value to the 1999 level. [127408]

John Healey: The climate change levy (CCL) was introduced in April 2001 and yielded £555 million in 2001-02. In 2005-06 CCL yielded £744 million. As announced in Budget 2006, the levy will increase in line with inflation on 1 April 2007. The Government keep all taxes under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Customs: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Customs officers are dedicated to *(a)* uncanalised and *(b)* intelligence-led work along the Sussex coast. [128515]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not specifically dedicate staff to any particular stretch of coastline. Instead, staff are flexibly deployed on an intelligence led basis to where the risk is greatest.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* detection rates and *(b)* other measures in relation to illegal imports of persons and goods of the disbanding of the Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team. [128517]

Dawn Primarolo: During 2005-06 HMRC undertook a review of its intelligence activity and structure. As a result of that review, the Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team's functions were reorganised into national hubs of expertise. Intelligence activity is now undertaken nationally by specialist operational teams who link with operational staff across the country. In this way, intelligence continues to support front line activity in HMRC and in other law enforcement agencies. No assessment has yet been made of the changes effected less than 12 months ago.

Customs: Newhaven

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of vehicles which were stopped by Customs officers at Newhaven in 2006. [128511]

Dawn Primarolo: This information cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what seizures of illegal goods there were at Newhaven in each year from 1997 to date, broken down by *(a)* type and *(b)* quantity of goods. [128516]

Dawn Primarolo: National seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs and HM Customs and Excise since 1997 are published in the Annual Reports for HM Revenue and Customs and HM Customs and Excise. The figures for the year ending 31 March 2006 will be published in the next Annual Report.

Information at a regional or local level cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to date has been of his Department's Euro Information line on 0845 601 0199. [126748]

Mr. Timms: The Euro Information line was established in 1998 for use by business and the general public to request information or to order published material made available on the Treasury's euro website (www.euro.gov.uk). The cost of Euro Information line is met from within the Treasury's departmental expenditure limit. The direct costs for the helpline currently amount to £185.96 per year plus VAT. The costs of staff time in dealing with calls is not recorded separately.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls have been made by businesses to his Department's Euro Information line on 0845 601 0199 requesting information on euro introduction or trade with euro area businesses since the introduction of the line. [126752]

Mr. Timms: Information on calls to the line is not available in the format requested. The total number of call minutes to the line from February 2001 to February 2007 was approximately 19,000. It is not recorded how many calls this represents, nor what proportion of the call minutes originated from businesses.

Economic Growth

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* the level of non-oil related GDP growth and *(b)* contribution to non-oil related GDP growth of (i) labour productivity growth, (ii) employment rate growth, (iii) average hours worked growth and (iv) working-age population growth in real terms in each year since 1977. [127342]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding a request for an estimate of (a) the level of non-oil related GDP growth and (b) the contribution to non-oil related GDP growth of (i) labour productivity growth, (ii) employment rate growth, (iii) average hours worked growth and (iv) working-age population growth in real terms in each year since 1977. (127342)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not calculate an estimate of non-oil related GDP but I have provided our published estimate of gross value added excluding oil and gas (table A). The difference between GDP and gross value added is that GDP includes the effects of taxes and subsidies on products whereas gross value added does not. However, in terms of growth rates the difference is minimal.

ONS does produce estimates of labour productivity, the employment rate, average hours worked and the working-age population. However, these are not used directly in the calculation of GDP and gross value added.

Table A: UK gross value added excluding oil and gas

	£ million	Annual growth (%)
1977	550,845	—
1978	560,662	1.8
1979	567,130	1.2
1980	554,630	-2.2
1981	544,608	-1.8
1982	552,717	1.5
1983	569,143	3.0
1984	579,780	1.9
1985	601,777	3.8
1986	625,680	4.0
1987	653,641	4.5
1988	688,239	5.3
1989	705,930	2.6
1990	713,425	1.1
1991	705,901	-1.1
1992	707,761	0.3
1993	722,761	2.1
1994	749,358	3.7
1995	768,340	2.5
1996	788,326	2.6
1997	812,717	3.1
1998	841,328	3.5
1999	866,997	3.1
2000	901,169	3.9
2001	922,188	2.3
2002	939,114	1.8
2003	966,014	2.9
2004	999,966	3.5
2005	1,021,976	2.2
2006	1,051,503	2.9

[1] These figures are based on data published on 23rd February 2007

Economic Situation: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross value added rate was of the Cumbrian economy in each year since 1990. [127181]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated 19 March 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question about Gross Value Added (GVA) of the Cumbrian economy in each year since 1990. (127181)

Regional GVA data are currently published in The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) regions and Cumbria is a NUTS2 region. Table A has the latest available data from 1995 to 2004.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data prior to 1995 were published biennially at the county level. These data were last published in 1998. Table B has the data for Cumbria from 1991 and 1993.

Both data-sets are at current prices, therefore the effects of inflation are not taken into account. The data sets in Table A and Table B were calculated using different methodologies and cannot be used together to obtain a consistent time series.

Table A

	Gross value added in Cumbria (£ million)
1995	4,862
1996	5,039
1997	5,157
1998	5,250
1999	5,264
2000	5,268
2001	5,429
2002	5,675
2003	6,047
2004	6,440

Table B

	Gross domestic product in Cumbria (£ million)
1991	4,500
1993	4,746

Excise Duties: Beer

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will freeze beer duty; and if he will make a statement; [127171]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of beer duty on profitability in the brewing industry; [127172]

(3) if he will introduce measures to assist investment and growth in the UK brewing industry; and if he will make a statement; [127173]

(4) what assessment he has made of the contribution made to the UK economy of the brewing and pub sector. [127174]

John Healey: Decisions on the taxation of beer are made by the Chancellor at Budget taking all relevant factors into consideration, including the state of the industry and its contribution to the economy.

Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will freeze duty on gaming machines; and if he will make a statement. [127175]

John Healey: Decisions on the taxation of gambling are made by the Chancellor at Budget taking all relevant factors into consideration, including the state of the industry and its contribution to the economy.

Financial Services: Advisory Services

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the registration fees of small to medium-sized independent financial advice practices; what representations he has made to the Financial Services Authority regarding those fees; and if he will make a statement. [127525]

Ed Balls: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is operationally independent of Government including in relation to the setting of fees. The FSA consults annually on its proposed regulatory fees and levies. The FSA consultation for 2007-08 was published in February and is available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Library/Policy/CP/2007/07_03.shtml

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the consequences for public revenues of reducing the rate of inheritance tax from 40 per cent. to 10 per cent., taking account of the probable behavioural impact of such a change; and if he will make a statement. [128018]

Dawn Primarolo: An estimate of the impact on tax revenues of reducing the inheritance tax rate to 10 per cent. from the year 2007-08 can be obtained from the ready reckoner table published by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.xls

The ready reckoner figures do not include any allowance for the impact of behavioural responses to the change; we can not provide a reliable estimate of such an impact.

Investment Appraisals

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's cost of capital is for the purpose of investment appraisals and cost comparisons; how this figure is arrived at; how often and against what criteria it is reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [127979]

Mr. Timms: The Government use a discount rate of 3.5 per cent. in real terms in central Government appraisals. This reflects the social time preference rate rather than the cost of capital. The rate is kept under constant review. Further information is contained in "The Green Book: Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government".

Owner Occupation

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the mean imputed rent is for owner-occupiers in each household income decile. [127313]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mean imputed rent is for owner occupiers in each household income decile. (127313).

This information is not available. The main National Statistics on household income distribution, such as Households Below Average Income (HBAI) and The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, do not use definitions of income which include imputed rent for owner-occupiers. HBAI presents statistics using two definitions of income: 'before housing costs' and 'after housing costs'. This latter measure achieves greater comparability between owner-occupier households and those that rent accommodation, albeit only for a measure of income which disregards housing and the contribution it makes to a households standard of living.

Comparisons of income distributions between countries are particularly affected by structural differences between housing markets. Therefore in statistics for international comparison, the treatment of housing is particularly important. The new EU-SILC (European Union—Survey on Income and Living Conditions) will include estimates of imputed rent from the 2007 survey onwards (data available from 2009 onwards).

Estimates of the total imputed rent for all owner-occupiers are included in the National Accounts, although this information is not available by income decile group.

Personal Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median age is of the household reference person in each household income decile. [127327]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) mean and (b) median age is of the household reference person in each household income decile. (127327).

The ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income' provides information about the income distribution and the characteristics of households in different parts of the income distribution. The latest analysis for 2004/05 was published on the National Statistics website on 12th May 2006 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits, while that for 2005/06 will be published on 17 May 2007. This annual analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK. Tables 15 and 15A provide information on household characteristics by income decile group.

The table below, based on the same underlying data as that appearing in Tables 15 and 15A, shows the mean and median age of the household reference person by household income decile.

The household reference person is the person in the household who owns the accommodation or is responsible for paying rent. If this ownership or responsibility for paying rent is held jointly, then the household reference person is the person with the highest income. A fuller definition is provided in the background notes.

The income decile groups are determined by ranking households according to their equivalised disposable income. The table below also shows the equivalised income boundary points which separate households into decile groups.

Equivalised incomes are standardised to take into account different sizes and compositions of households. The standard household is deemed to be a two adult household with no children, and so these equivalised incomes can be interpreted as indicating a standard of living that would be achieved by a standard household with that income.

The figures shown in the table below are based on a sample survey and are not necessarily accurate to the nearest single year of age, but nevertheless provide a good indication of how the age of the household reference person changes across the income distribution.

Mean and median age of household reference person by decile groups of ALL households, 2004-05

	Decile groups of all households ranked by equivalised disposable income										
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
Decile boundary points (equivalised)		*9,892*	*12,530*	*14,691*	*16,948*	*19,309*	*22,287*	*25,811*	*30,832*	*40,385*	
Number of households in the population (000s)	2,440	2,446	2,440	2,445	2,443	2,444	2,443	2,440	2,447	2,444	24,431
Mean age of household reference person	55	55	58	56	53	51	50	48	45	46	52
Median age of household reference person	57	57	60	57	51	50	49	48	45	45	52

Source:
ONS, Effects of taxes and benefits on household income, 2004-05.

Sailing Boats

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of yacht movements between non-EU ports and the UK in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many reports were logged in respect of such movements over the same period. [128519]

Dawn Primarolo: Whether or not the crew of a yacht needs to notify HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of its arrival depends on its last port of call. If arriving directly from an EU member state, the crew of a yacht need only contact HMRC if they have goods to declare. When arriving direct from a country outside the EU (the Channel Islands are regarded as outside the EU for this purpose), the crew must notify HMRC if any of the following criteria apply:

VAT has not been paid on the vessel;

there are goods in excess of the travellers' allowance detailed in Notice 1 A Customs guide for travellers entering the UK;

they have on board goods which are to be treated as duty free stores;

they have any prohibited or restricted goods;

there is any notifiable illness on board;

there are any people on board who need immigration clearance; or

any repairs or modifications, other than running repairs, have been carried out since the vessel last left the EU.

In the year to 15 March 2007 we were advised of 166 inbound yacht movements. HMRC has no further figures relating to such movements.

Skin Cancer

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* mortality rate was for (i) melanoma skin cancer and (ii) non-melanoma skin cancer in (A) Taunton constituency and (B) the UK in each year since 1996, broken down by age group. [127986]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) diagnosis and (b) mortality rate was for (i) melanoma skin cancer and (ii) non-melanoma skin cancer in (A) Taunton constituency and (B) the UK in each year since 1996, broken down by age group. [127986]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the years 2005 (Wales), 2004 (England, Northern Ireland) and 2003 (Scotland). The latest available figures for deaths are for the year 2005.

For the UK, age-specific incidence and mortality rates of respectively, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, from 1996, are given in Tables 1 and 3 below.

For Taunton Deane LA, numbers of newly registered cases of, and deaths from, respectively, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, from 1996, are given in Tables 2 and 4 below. Only a broad breakdown by age (0-59, 60+) is possible because of the small number of cases in some years.

Numbers for both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, for Taunton Deane LA, particularly those for deaths, are too small to produce reliable age-specific rates even on the broad age ranges provided. Numbers for the UK are provided in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 1: Age-specific rates[1] of newly diagnosed cases of, and deaths from, melanoma skin cancer[2] for the UK, 1996 to 2005

UK	Age	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Incidence	0-59	65	67	70	69	76	84	87	85	—	—
	60+	232	249	247	261	293	301	324	331	—	—
Mortality	0-59	12	12	12	12	13	12	12	13	12	13
	60+	79	81	90	89	87	90	87	95	95	96

[1] Rate per million population.
[2] Melanoma skin cancer incidence is defined as code C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10). Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 172 for years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C43 for years 2001 to 2005.

Table 2: Number of newly diagnosed cases of, and deaths from, melanoma skin cancer[1] for Taunton Deane LA, 1996 to 2005

Taunton Deane LA[2]	Age	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Incidence	0-59	4	7	8	3	9	18	6	15	14	—
	60+	5	10	6	11	11	15	11	17	18	—
Mortality	0-59	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	1
	60+	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	4	2	1

[1] Melanoma skin cancer incidence is defined as code C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10). Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 172 for years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C43 for years 2001 to 2005.
[2] Using local authority ward boundaries as of 2007 for all years shown.
Sources:
1. Office for National Statistics
2. Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit.
3. Scottish Cancer Registry ISD
4. Northern Ireland Cancer Registry.

Table 3: Age-specific rates[1] of newly diagnosed cases of, and deaths from, non-melanoma skin cancer[2] for the UK, 1996 to 2005

UK	Age	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Incidence	0-59	215	242	262	269	276	286	292	297	—	—
	60+	3,203	3,550	3,873	3,944	4,136	4188	4,255	4,315	—	—
Mortality	0-59	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	60+	32	33	35	32	29	36	38	39	40	38

[1] Rate per million population.
[2] Non-melanoma skin cancer incidence is defined as code C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10). Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 173 for years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C44 for years 2001 to 2005.

Table 4: Number of newly diagnosed cases of, and deaths from, non-melanoma skin cancer[1] for Taunton Deane LA, 1996 to 2005

Taunton Deane LA[2]	Age	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Incidence	0-59	18	25	44	38	41	42	38	44	46	—
	60+	88	113	180	163	185	132	159	168	216	—
Mortality	0-59	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	60+	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	2	4

[1] Non-melanoma skin cancer incidence is defined as code C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10). Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 173 for years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C44 for years 2001 to 2005.
[2] Using local authority ward boundaries as of 2007 for all years shown.
Sources:
1. Office for National Statistics
2. Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit.
3. Scottish Cancer Registry ISD
4. Northern Ireland Cancer Registry.

Table 5: Number of newly diagnosed cases of, and deaths from, melanoma skin cancer[1] for the UK, 1996 to 2005

UK	Age	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Incidence	0-59	3,008	3,117	3,237	3,212	3,551	3,959	4,073	4,026	0-59	3,008
	60+	2,785	2,999	2,984	3,168	3,580	3,689	3,993	4,123	60+	2,785
Mortality	0-59	559	546	549	552	616	554	571	592	583	595
	60+	951	977	1,084	1,083	1,058	1,101	1,075	1 177	1,202	1,225

[1] Non-melanoma skin cancer incidence is defined as code C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10). Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 173 for years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C44 for years 2001 to 2005.

Table 6: Number of newly diagnosed cases of, and deaths from, non- melanoma skin cancer[1] for the UK, 1996 to 2005

UK	Age	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Incidence	0-59	9,927	11,181	12,166	12,510	12,878	13,417	13,720	13,986	0-59	9,927
	60+	38,466	42,746	46,886	47,934	50,491	51,332	52,466	53,728	60+	38,466
Mortality	0-59	60	38	44	43	43	39	41	37	37	31
	60+	388	401	422	389	351	440	474	483	505	480

[1] Non-melanoma skin cancer incidence is defined as code C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10). Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 173 for years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C44 for years 2001 to 2005.

Smuggling: Firearms

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seizures of illegal firearms were made by HM Revenue and Customs staff in each year since 1997; and how many individuals were prosecuted as a result of such seizures in each year. [127888]

Dawn Primarolo: The answer to the question is as follows:

	Number of seizures of illegal firearms	Number of individuals prosecuted
2002-03	n/a	4
2003-04	171	8
2004-05	83	4
2005-06	229	3

n/a = Not available.

The number of seizures of firearms includes air firearms as defined in the Firearms Act 1968 as amended with the exception of self defence sprays, stun guns and parts of firearms.

The following information is not available:

the number of seizures prior to 1 April 2003;

the number of individuals prosecuted prior to 1 April 2002; and prosecutions undertaken as a result of seizures that were referred to police forces for investigation.

Students: Loans

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value was of student loan repayments received by HM Revenue and Customs during the financial years *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05; and how much of this has been passed on to the Student Loan Company. [127873]

Dawn Primarolo: Published 2003-04 and 2004-05 student loans cash receipts figures are available in the 2005 and 2006 HM Revenue and Customs Annual Report which can be accessed at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

HMRC passes on all receipts from student loan collection to the Department for Education and Skills on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases student loan repayments made to the Inland Revenue during the financial year 2004-05 have not yet been passed on to the Student Loans Company. [127940]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs will only know the total number of borrowers who have had repayments deducted by their employer when they have finished processing all 1.6 million employers' annual returns for the financial year 2004-05.

However, we currently estimate that 1.9 per cent. of 2004-05 student loan repayments have not yet been passed on to the Student Loans Company.

Taxation: Football

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether non-British footballers playing in the English Premier League pay UK tax on their incomes, including bonuses; [128022]

(2) whether British footballers playing in the English Premier League pay UK tax on their incomes, including bonuses; [128023]

(3) whether non-British directors of English Premier League football clubs pay UK tax on *(a)* their incomes, including bonuses and *(b)* capital gains; [128024]

(4) whether Premier League football clubs owned by non-British individuals or corporate bodies are liable to UK taxation on their *(a)* profits and *(b)* capital gains. [128025]

Dawn Primarolo: Footballers playing in the English premier league, directors of English premier league clubs and premier league football clubs pay UK tax on their income and capital gains on the same basis as any other individual or body working or operating in the UK. The correct tax treatment will be determined by the particular facts and circumstances.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* taxpayers submitting tax returns do not have (i) capital gains tax liability, (ii) business income, (iii) property income, (iv) partnership income, (v) income from share schemes and (vi) foreign income; and if he will make a statement. [127267]

Dawn Primarolo: Figures for income tax self assessment returns for the 2004-05 tax year (the latest full year available) are provided in the following table.

Table: Self assessment tax returns received for the 2004-05 tax year, showing numbers and proportions without those supplementary pages which indicate the receipt of various kinds of income and gains.

	(a) All individuals		*(b) Individuals in receipt of a state pension*	
	Number	*Proportion of total*	*Number*	*Proportion of total*
All individuals	8,100,000	—	1,360,000	—
of which:				
(i) without capital gains pages[1]	7,670,000	94.6	1,230,000	90.2
(ii) without self-employment pages (business income)[2]	4,990,000	61.6	1,120,000	82.4
(iii) without land and property pages[3]	6,570,000	81.1	1,090,000	80.2
(iv) without partnership pages	7,040,000	86.9	1,220,000	89.4
(v) without share schemes pages	8,080,000	99.7	1,360,000	100.0
(vi) without foreign pages	7,680,000	94.8	1,200,000	88.3

[1] Besides the main capital gains pages, these figures take account of short tax returns submitted with supplementary capital gains pages.
[2] Besides the main self employment pages, these figures take account of short tax returns with the self-employment income section completed.
[3] Besides the main land and property pages, these figures take account of short tax returns submitted with the UK land and property income section completed.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000. The figures in the table relate to returns received and captured onto HMRC computer systems as at March 2007.

Teenage Pregnancy: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many underage pregnancies were recorded in each London borough in each of the last five years, broken down by ethnic group. [127739]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many underage pregnancies have been recorded in each London borough in each of the last five years, broken down by ethnic group. (127739)

Figures on underage pregnancies are estimated using the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

Information on ethnicity is not collected at birth registration and hence figures on underage pregnancies by ethnicity are not available.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 in each London Borough for the years 2001-2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the

attached table. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 years by area of usual residence, London, 2001-2005[1]

Area of usual residence	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[1]
London	1,252	1,229	1,247	1,128	1,060
Camden LB	22	25	23	14	26
Hackney LB and City of London	62	56	62	52	37
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	22	21	25	11	22
Haringey LB	59	59	46	62	39
Islington LB	37	30	33	35	34
Kensington and Chelsea LB	14	13	8	5	9
Lambeth LB	80	95	100	64	67
Lewisham LB	61	70	74	59	64
Newham LB	71	59	45	47	36
Southwark LB	68	77	83	66	57
Tower Hamlets LB	42	34	28	35	25
Wandsworth LB	48	41	39	27	26
Westminster, City of LB	20	17	17	8	12
Barking and Dagenham LB	51	43	44	42	38
Barnet LB	34	27	38	34	30
Bexley LB	34	36	27	36	32
Brent LB	52	50	54	49	53
Bromley LB	33	38	39	36	36
Croydon LB	72	68	57	63	66
Baling LB	31	32	29	32	30
Enfield LB	43	51	58	46	35
Greenwich LB	51	45	45	49	48
Harrow LB	24	21	18	25	16
Havering LB	23	18	29	25	35
Hillingdon LB	37	39	48	50	39
Hounslow LB	38	25	34	36	26
Kingston upon Thames LB	9	8	9	9	12
Merton LB	20	22	27	24	24
Redbridge LB	26	28	25	25	21
Richmond upon Thames LB	10	9	8	12	11
Sutton LB	17	23	25	20	21
Waltham Forest LB	41	49	50	30	33

[1] Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Note:

To preserve confidentiality, counts for City of London have been combined with those for Hackney LB.

Water Charges: Low Incomes

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide additional assistance to *(a)* low income families and *(b)* pensioners to pay for water bills. [127968]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 1997 the Government have provided significant additional financial assistance to families and pensioners to help them meet all their living costs. Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit are the main tools for directing financial support to families. From April 2007, financial support for all two children families will be at least £1,570, with the poorest receiving £5,810.

From April, the basic state pension will increase by £3.05 to £87.30 a week, the biggest increase in the basic state pension since 2001; and the pension credit guarantee will see its biggest cash rise: by £5 to £119.05 a week for a single person and by £7.65 to £181.70 for a couple.

Welfare Tax Credits

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason tax credit repayments cannot be taken from future payments when a single claim becomes a joint claim by a couple; and if he will make a statement. [124660]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* Entitlement to a tax credit award comes to an end where an individual who has made a single claim becomes part of a couple. Tax credit legislation does not allow recovery from a subsequent partner where the overpayment arose from an earlier award to which that person had neither claimed nor benefited.

Any overpayment on the single claim can be collected over 12 months. In cases of hardship, HMRC will consider recovering over a longer periods if appropriate.

Written Questions

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to provide a substantive reply to question 124660, tabled on 27 February 2007. [128085]

Dawn Primarolo: I have done so.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions there were to accident and emergency departments in 2006, broken down by *(a)* type and *(b)* strategic health authority (SHA); and what proportion of the resident population of each SHA the latter figure represents. [126550]

Andy Burnham: Information on the number of emergency admissions via accident and emergency (A&E) departments for January to December 2006,

broken down by A&E type and strategic health authority, is show in the following table.

Information on the number of attendances at A&E departments is a separate collection.

Strategic health authority (SHA) name	*Admissions via type 1 (major) A & E*	*Admissions via type 2 (single specialty) A & E departments*	*Admissions via type 3 (minor injury and illness services) A & E departments*	*Total admissions via A & E*	*Population*[1]	*Admissions as percentage of population*
England	2,947,677	37,062	25,675	3,073,151	50,431,654	6.1
North East	149,968	127	3,714	157,650	2,558,308	6.2
North West	525,953	5,063	2,374	540,827	6,846,249	7.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	305,719	0	1,475	308,669	5,063,944	6.1
East Midlands	187,863	4,140	1,629	199,401	4,306,335	4.6
West Midlands	289,334	5,265	48	299,960	5,365,438	5.6
East of England	270,579	3,304	1,932	281,051	5,541,636	5.1
London	551,730	3,802	55	559,444	7,517,726	7.4
South East Coast	225,299	14,144	11,955	277,497	4,213,904	6.6
South Central	170,196	755	1,575	174,856	3,950,320	4.4
South West	271,036	462	918	273,796	5,067,794	5.4

[1] Population data for mid-year 2006 are not yet available. Population data used are therefore 2003-based resident population projections for mid-year 2005 (based on 2001 census).

Note:
Data are for period January to December 2006 (quarter 4 2005-06 plus quarter 1 to quarter 3 2006-07).

Source:
Department of Health QMAE dataset and Office for National Statistics.

Bedford Primary Care Trust: Health Visitors

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors are employed by Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT); and how many were employed by *(a)* Bedford PCT and *(b)* Heartlands PCT in (i) 2005, (ii 2004 and (iii) 2003. [118523]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information as to the number of health visitors employed by the newly formed Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) is not yet available. However, the following table shows the number of qualified health visiting staff in the old Bedford PCT and the old Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT as at 30 September for each year specified.

			Headcount
	2003	*2004*	*2005*
Total specified organisations	93	97	96
Bedford PCT	37	42	41
Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	56	55	55

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Caesarean Sections

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* emergency and *(b)* planned caesarean births there were in each year since 1995. [126168]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The last year for which this information is available is 2004-05. Figures are shown in the table.

	Elective	*Emergency*
1995-96	40,889	56,297
1996-97	43,399	57,667
1997-98	46,215	60,840
1998-99	46,200	64,103
1999-2000	48,616	67,836
2000-01	48,365	69,800
2001-02	50,378	68,795
2002-03	50,964	69,596
2003-04	55,286	75,443
2004-05	54,905	79,436

Source:
NHS Maternity Statistics, England 2004-05 (Table 3).

Care Homes: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her assessment is of the policy implications of the judgment in the 2004 case of Goldsmith *v.* the London Borough of Wandsworth on the funding of care in nursing homes. [124191]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has examined the Court of Appeal Judgment of 27 August 2004 and does not consider that it has implications for the policy on the funding of care in nursing homes.

Care Homes: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting times were for care assessments by each London borough council in each of the last five years. [125627]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information has been placed in the Library. Table 1 shows the cumulative percentage of new clients aged 18 and over whose assessments were completed during the year by length of time from first contact to completed assessment for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 for each London borough.

Table 2 shows the number of new clients whose assessments were completed during the year by the waiting time between first contact and completed assessment for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 for each London borough.

Data for earlier years are not available on a comparable basis.

The information needed to calculate the average and longest waiting time for a care assessment is not collected centrally.

Childbirth

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of births were classed as normal in each year since 1995. [126167]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: For the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 the numbers of normal deliveries (defined as those without surgical intervention, use of instruments, induction, epidural or general anaesthetic before or during the birth) are set out in the table. Information for years before 2002 is not available centrally.

	Number of deliveries	*Number of normal deliveries*	*Percentage normal*
2002-03	548,000	257,560	47
2003-04	575,900	264,914	46
2004-05	584,100	280,368	48

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what international comparators she uses when assessing perinatal statistics. [127278]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what international comparators are used when assessing perinatal statistics. (127278)

It is difficult to make international comparisons on perinatal mortality because of different definitions used for compiling perinatal mortality statistics. These are due to differences in the legal criteria used for birth registration and inclusion criteria used for recording birth information on other data collection systems. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the perinatal period commences at 22 completed weeks (154 days) of gestation (when birthweight is normally 500 grams) and ends 7 completed days afterbirth[1].

In England and Wales, perinatal mortality statistics (since 1992) are based on the legal definition of stillbirths registered at 24 or more weeks gestation, which are collected by the vital registration system, and includes deaths at ages up to 6 completed days of life (whatever the gestational age at live birth). Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland use the same stillbirth definition as England and Wales, hence perinatal mortality statistics are comparable between these countries.

Countries such as Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and Portugal collect information on births using the WHO criteria and hence perinatal mortality statistics for these countries are comparable[2]. But in countries such as Denmark, Spain and Sweden, only fetal deaths after 28 or more completed weeks of gestation are registered as stillbirths, and in countries which use no such criteria, regulations about stillbirth registration can affect decisions about whether an event is a late miscarriage or should be registered as a birth. Furthermore, under-reporting can be a problem, particularly where data collection systems are not statutory.

Therefore, the PERISTAT project funded by the European Union was charged with developing a set of indicators for monitoring and describing perinatal health in Europe.

With the PERISTAT indicator set, the aim is to facilitate the surveillance of perinatal health in the EU by harmonizing indicator definitions and encouraging the collection of comparable data for the following purposes:

To assess maternal and infant mortality and morbidity associated with events in the perinatal period.

To describe the evolution of risk factors for perinatal health outcomes in the population of childbearing women, including demographic, socio-economic and behavioural characteristics.

To monitor the use and consequences of medical technology in the care of women and infants during pregnancy, delivery and the postpartum period.

ONS has been providing data for England and Wales for the PERISTAT indicators, where possible.

Further details on this project can be viewed using this link:

http://europeristat.aphp.fr/en/index.html

[1] International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Volume 1, page 1237.

[2] European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology, volume 111, supplement 1, 2003, page SI7.

Childbirth: Death

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of births resulted in *(a)* maternal and *(b)* perinatal death in each year since 1995. [126170]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH)'s report on maternal death for the three-year period 2000-02 showed that there were 106 direct maternal deaths in that period, representing 5.3 deaths per thousand of the two million births. The next CEMACH report is expected at the end of the year.

Office for National Statistics data shows that in 2002, the most recent year for which figures are available, there were 4,977 perinatal deaths in 596,122 maternities, or 8.3 deaths per 1,000 pregnancies.

Childbirth: Midwives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of babies born in England were delivered by midwives in each year since 1995. [126171]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data is set out in the table.

	Percentage delivered by midwives
1995-96	71.1
1996-97	70.8
1997-98	69.4
1998-99	68.1
1999-2000	66.9
2000-01	66.2
2001-02	65.4
2002-03	66.1
2003-04	66.1
2004-05	63.7

Clostridium Difficile

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has issued to hospitals on the means to prevent transmission of *clostridium difficile*; and if she will make a statement. [124526]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has issued the following guidance specifically for the management and control of *Clostridium difficile*:

A professional letter on health care associated infections including particularly infection caused by *Clostridium difficile* was issued to all Chief Executives of national health service acute trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities on 7 December 2006. This letter set out the policies and clinical practices needed to control *Clostridium difficile* and also included very simple operational guidance for managers.

A high impact intervention on *Clostridium difficile* was added to our delivery programme "Saving lives: a delivery programme to reduce healthcare associated infections including MRSA" in June 2006. This tool will help to reduce infections.

A joint professional letter from the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Nursing Officer went out to NHS Trusts in December 2005 reminding them of the importance of this infection and listed the key actions to control *Clostridium difficile* and highlighted the guidance available[1, 2]. The letter has been placed in the Library and is at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/ProfessionalLetters/ChiefMedicalOfficerLetters/ChiefMedicalOfficerLettersArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4125069&chk=cuQ7C%2B

In addition we have asked the Health Protection Agency to review the extant guidance issued in 1994. This revised national guidance should be ready in the spring.

All those providing health care services need high standards of hygiene to prevent infections. Specific measures to control *Clostridium difficile* are restriction, where possible, of broad spectrum antibiotics, isolation of patients and enhanced environmental cleaning.

Both a simple guide to *Clostridium difficile* and the National *Clostridium difficile* Standards group: Report to the Department of Health, are available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/HealthcareAcquiredInfection/HealthcareAcquiredGeneralInformation/HealthcareAcquiredGeneralArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4115800&chk=wHehV/

National *Clostridium difficile* Standards Group: Report to Department of the Health February 2003 http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/06/76/51/04067651.pdf

[1] *Clostridium Difficile* Infection, Prevention and Management A Report by a Department of Health/PHLS joint working group. 1994 http://www.hpa.org.uk/

[2] Guidelines for optimal surveillance of *Clostridium difficile* infection in hospitals Brazier JS and Duerden BI. Guidelines for optimal surveillance of *Clostridium difficile* infection in hospitals. Comm.Dis.Pub.Health. 1998:1;(4) 229-230.

Dental Services: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total amount of revenue resource was allocated to each primary care trust in England to provide NHS dental services in 2006-07. [127959]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A table listing the primary dental service resource allocations for 2006-07 for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England as at 31 July 2006 is available in the Library. This set out the net allocations awarded to PCTs and the assumed gross budgets based on illustrative assumptions about levels of patient charge income for each PCT. Strategic health authorities agreed with their PCTs locally how these allocations would be redistributed within the new PCT areas that took effect from 1 October 2006.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will press the European Food Safety Agency *(a)* to publish a timetable for assessment of evidence dossiers submitted to it under the terms of the food supplement directive and *(b)* to make it its policy to announce decisions on individual applications as soon as they have been made. [128032]

Caroline Flint: At a recent meeting with part of the United Kingdom food supplements industry, a number of concerns were raised regarding dossiers submitted for an opinion by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in relation to the food supplements directive. It was agreed at the meeting that these concerns would be raised with EFSA and this will include the timetable for assessing dossiers and the publication of decisions on individual applications.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* junior doctors and *(b)* fully qualified doctors of (i) European Economic Area (EEA) nationality and (ii) non-EEA nationality have been newly employed by the NHS since July 2006; [122175]

(2) how many *(a)* junior doctors and *(b)* fully qualified doctors of non-European Economic Area nationality are employed by the NHS; and how many were employed by the NHS in each of the last five years. [122178]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the next round of funding for delivering drug treatment strategies as part of the public health programme is expected to be announced. [117968]

Caroline Flint: The Department's press release announced the allocations to primary care trusts for the pooled drug treatment budget for 2007-08 on 26 January 2007. A copy of the press release has been placed in the Library.

East of England Strategic Health Authority: Acute Beds

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the acute services review on major capital development programmes in the East of England strategic health authority area; and if she will make a statement. [126425]

Andy Burnham: Any proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally. There is a well-established and well understood process for managing consultations on such changes so that patients, the public and local stakeholders can help to inform the local debate.

Eastbourne Hospital

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency admissions were received at Eastbourne District General hospital in each of the last five years. [125477]

Andy Burnham: Information is not collected at the level of individual hospitals. Available information on the number of admissions via accident and emergency (A&E) departments at East Sussex Hospitals National Health Service Trust is shown in the table. Information on the number of attendances at A&E is a separate collection.

	Admissions via A&E
2002-03	17,461
2003-04[1]	17,085
2004-05	17,335
2005-06	17,700
2006-07[2]	12,999

[1] Admissions via all A&E types were first collected in Q1 2003-04. Data after this date are for all A&E types, prior to this the figures are for admissions via major (type 1) A&E only.
[2] 2006-07 data are for Q1, Q2 and Q3 only.

Source:
Department of Health, QMAE dataset

Eating Disorders

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people between the ages of *(a)* 10 to 16, *(b)* 17 to 23 and *(c)* 24 to 30 years were diagnosed with eating disorders in each of the last 10 years. [125163]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available in the requested format. Information is available from 2002-03 onwards about the number of finished consultant episodes following a primary diagnosis of an eating disorder, by gender, and for the age ranges 0 to 14 years, 15 to 59 years, 60 to 74 years and over 75 years and is shown in the table.

Number of finished consultant episodes for patients with a primary diagnosis of an eating disorder, by year and gender, for the national health service in England 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

	2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
Yearlage range	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
0 to 14	44	234	34	234	47	242	59	269
15 to 59	95	1,282	82	1,284	114	1,413	155	1,604
60 to 74	9	37	11	31	16	32	9	35
75+	18	34	14	25	8	32	11	32
Total male/female	166	1,587	141	1,574	185	1,719	234	1,940
Year total	1,753		1,715		1,904		2,174	

Note:
A finished consultant episode is a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures represent the number of treatment episodes provided, but do not represent the individual number of patients seen, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Emergency Bed Days

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 36-7W, on emergency bed days, for what reasons she has not published data relating to 2005-06; and if she will publish this data. [123157]

Andy Burnham: Emergency bed days data for 2005-06 is shown in the following table. I regret the information was not included in the previous answer due to an administrative error.

	Number of bed days for emergency admission group	*Total number of bed days for all admission groups*	*Emergency bed days expressed as a percentage of the total number of bed days*
1997-98	30,342,827	49,535,706	61.3
1998-99	31,177,520	49,863,665	62.5
1999-2000	31,269,251	49,539,741	63.1
2000-01	32,178,037	50,196,931	64.1
2001-02	32,925,334	50,776,911	64.8
2002-03	33,131,586	51,232,337	64.7

	Number of bed days for emergency admission group	Total number of bed days for all admission groups	Emergency bed days expressed as a percentage of the total number of bed days
2003-04	33,592,698	51,198,417	65.6
2004-05	33,073,383	50,518,668	65.5
2005-06	31,958,716	49,009,234	65.2

Notes:
1. Bed days during the year for finished episodes.
2. Total bed days during the year from episode start date or 1 April (whichever is later) to episode end date or 31 March (whichever is earlier).
3. Admission methods for the emergency admissions included above are:
21 Emergency—via accident and emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider.
22 Emergency—via general practitioner (GP).
23 Emergency—via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau.
24 Emergency—via consultant out-patient clinic.
28 Emergency—other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider.
4. Data Quality
Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England.
Source:
Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Family Practitioner Services: Surveys

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients are to be surveyed for the NHS's general practitioner patient survey on hospital choice to be provided by Ipsos MORI. [123971]

Andy Burnham: Questionnaires have been distributed to all general practices with a request that they be distributed to all patients referred by their general practitioners (GPs) between 16 January and 30 March 2007 for a first out-patient appointment where the choice policy applies. In some cases, the need for rapid access to diagnosis and treatment may be judged by the GP to override choice-at-referral policy, for example in cases of chest pain or suspected cancer. In other cases, such as maternity or mental health, other kinds of choice may be more likely to improve the patient experience.

General Practitioners: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial support her Department provides for general practitioners in Bedfordshire to undertake training to become GPs with a specialist interest; and if she will make a statement. [122818]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for the primary care trusts in discussion with local general practitioners (GPs) to decide how many GPs with a specialist interest are required and how to fund any necessary training.

General Practitioners: County Durham

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners there are per 1,000 of the population in County Durham; and how many there were in 1997. [123655]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows general medical practitioners (GMPs) per head of population for the former County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic Health Authority (SHA).

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per head of population, County Durham and Tees Valley SHA

	Number (headcount)	
	1997	2005
County Durham and Tees Valley		
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	621	776
Population	1,150,807	1,151,799
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population	54.0	67.4
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 1,000 population	0.54	0.67

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted general practitioners, general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical services (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para. 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.
Note:
Data as at 1 October 1997 and 30 September 2005.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics 2001 ONS Population Census.

Health Services: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many Welsh patients were treated in NHS hospitals in England in 2006, broken down by *(a)* type of treatment and *(b)* hospital; and how much funding was received by each hospital in payment by the Welsh Assembly Government, broken down by type of treatment; [119009]

(2) how many patients from Wales have been treated in English hospitals as a result of the Welsh Assembly Government's second offer scheme, broken down by *(a)* health authority area and *(b)* hospital in which treatment was provided; [119016]

(3) how much each English health authority has received in payment under the Welsh Assembly Government's second offer scheme since its inception; [119017]

(4) what estimate she has made of the cost of follow-up treatment required for patients treated at Weston-super-

Mare Hospital under the Welsh Assembly Government's second offer scheme who have been recalled following knee surgery; and how the costs of the follow-up treatment will be met. [119018]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the National Assembly for Wales and I have asked the Health Minister to write to the hon. Member directly.

Health Visitors: Training

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places there were for health visitors in each health region in each of the last three years. [124383]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Hearing Aids: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on access to digital hearing aids in Stoke on Trent. [125812]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In order to improve access and reduce waiting times for audiology services, the national audiology framework 'Improving Access to Audiology Services in England', was published on 6 March 2007.

This measure will assist in significantly reducing waiting times and will greatly benefit those who receive hearing aids.

Herbal Medicine: Regulation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on her plans for the future regulation of herbal practitioners; and what principles will underlie the proposed new regulatory regime. [123950]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A working group has been established to prepare for statutory regulation of herbal medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture practitioners. The working group, chaired by Professor Mike Pittilo, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, has met three times so far and is currently working towards preparing a report to Ministers.

The purpose of statutory regulation is to improve public protection by setting clear standards of training and competence for herbal medicine and acupuncture practitioners. It would also reassure patients that a practitioner they consult is not only suitably qualified, but also competent and up-to-date with developments in practice.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the number of *(a)* NHS beds, *(b)* general and acute beds, *(c)* intermediate care beds, *(d)* non-residential intermediate care places and *(e)* adult critical care beds since the publication of the NHS Plan; and if she will make a statement. [126608]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is in the following tables:

Table 1: Average daily number of available beds

	All specialties (excluding day only)	*Cumulative change*	*General and acute*	*Cumulative change*
1999-2000	186,290	0	135,080	0
2000-01	186,091	-199	135,794	714
2001-02	184,871	-1,419	136,583	1,503
2002-03	183,826	-2,464	136,679	1,599
2003-04	184,019	-2,271	137,247	2,167
2004-05	180,966	-5,324	136,184	1,104
2005-06	175,646	-10,644	133,033	-2,047

Table 2: Number of intermediate care beds

	Number of beds	*Cumulative change*
1999-2000	4,242	0
2000-01	[1]—	[1]—
2001-02	7,021	2,779
2002-03	7,493	3,251
2003-04	8,677	4,435
2004-05	8,928	4,686
2005-06	9,007	4,765
2006-07	8,733	4,491

[1] Not collected. *Notes:* England figure is a pro-rata based on resident PCT populations. This is due to one PCT not returning data.

Table 3: Number of places in non-residential intermediate care schemes

	Number of places	*Cumulative Change*
1999-2000	7,149	0
2000-01	[1]—	[1]—
2001-02	13,878	9,636
2002-03	19,078	14,836
2003-04	17,298	13,056
2004-05	20,558	16,316
2005-06	20,637	16,395
2006-07	23,403	19,161

[1] Not collected *Notes:* England figure is a pro-rata based on resident PCT populations. This is due to one PCT not returning data.

Table 4: Number of open and staffed adult critical care beds on the census day

Census date	*Critical care*	*Cumulative change*
15 January 2000	2,362	0
14 July 2000	2,343	-19
15 January 2001	2,885	523
16 July 2001	2,940	578
15 January 2002	3,030	668
16 July 2002	3,070	708
15 January 2003	3,097	735
16 July 2003	3,128	766
15 January 2004	3,143	781
15 July 2004	3,160	798
13 January 2005	3,240	878
14 July 2005	3,215	853
16 January 2006	3,278	916
13 July 2006	3,242	880
15 January 2007	3,359	997

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trusts have received an improvement notice as a result of failure to comply with the Code of Practice since October 2006. [123062]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No improvement notices have been issued yet. The Health Act 2006 gave the Healthcare Commission the power to issue improvement notices if it considers that a national health service organisation is not observing the provisions of the Code of Practice in any material respect. The Act, however, includes various other matters that the commission needs to take into account before this power is exercised. The commission is currently reviewing the arrangements in all 41 trusts whose annual health check and rating published in October 2006 gave rise to concern with respect to health care associated infection. This programme will be completed by the end of March. The commission has assured me that if this work reveals evidence of any material failures to observe the provision of the code the issue of formal improvement notices will be likely to follow.

In addition, trusts are being required to make a specific declaration by 1 May regarding their observance of the code as part of the next annual health check cycle. The Healthcare Commission will follow up these declarations as part of a programme to review the application of the code in trusts where there may be risks of inadequate performance. The issuing of improvement notices is an important power to help secure the safety of patients and the commission will use this new power when it is appropriate.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what decision was reached in each case which she referred to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel; and by what date a decision is expected in each case which has not yet been decided. [122628]

Andy Burnham: The Secretary of State has referred four cases to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) for advice. The four cases equate to seven separate referrals from Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC). Details of the cases and their outcomes are listed. A further case in East Kent was referred to the IRP in April 2003 although this did not relate to a referral from an OSC.

In relation to the 'Making it Better' and 'Healthy Futures' cases, these are currently with the IRP for consideration. The IRP will advise on the cases by 26 June 2007 and the Secretary of State will make a final decision thereafter.

Cases referred by the Secretary of State for Health to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel:

Proposed changes to maternity services in Calderdale and Huddersfield:

Referred by: Calderdale and Kirklees Joint OSC

Outcome: IRP advice accepted in full by the Secretary of State with a decision to support the local NHS proposals for in-patient consultant-led maternity care to be centred on the Calderdale Royal hospital site together with an alongside midwife-led unit. A standalone midwife-led unit would be provided at the Huddersfield Royal infirmary site.

Acute services review in Hartlepool and Teesside:

Referred by: Stockton on Tees borough council, Middlesbrough council, Hartlepool borough council

Outcome: IRP advice accepted in full by the Secretary of State. IRP advice was that a modern hospital should replace the existing out-of-date hospital buildings and be provided on a new site in a well situated location accessible to the people of Hartlepool, Stockton on Tees, Easington and Sedgefield. Until the new hospital is open, consultant-led maternity and paediatric services should be centralised at the university hospitals of North Tees and a midwifery-led maternity unit and a paediatric assessment unit should be provided at the University hospital of Hartlepool in addition to elective surgery and emergency medical services, taking into account best practice.

'Making it Better' consultation on the reconfiguration of in-patient services for women, babies, children and young people in Greater Manchester, East Cheshire and High Peak:

Referred by: Salford OSC, Bury OSC, Rochdale OSC

Outcome: To be confirmed.

'Healthy Futures' reconfiguration of Hospital Services in the North East Sector of Greater Manchester:

Referred by: Rochdale OSC

Outcome: To be confirmed.

Infant Milk

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* supported on the inclusion of synthetic fluorides in infant milk formulas. [112887]

Caroline Flint *[pursuant to the reply, 11 January 2007, Official Report, c. 697W]:* The Department and the Food Standards Agency have not commissioned or supported research on this topic. The composition of infant formula is harmonised at European Union-level (EU), and for fluoride reflects the recommendation of the EU Scientific Committee for Food that, on safety and nutritional grounds, no minimum level, but a maximum level of 100 micrograms of fluoride per 100 kcal, should be set. This advice recognises the potential fluoride intakes of infants from supplements and/or water used to make up the formula.

Medical Treatments: Somerset

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals involved in road traffic accidents in *(a)* Taunton and *(b)* Somerset in each year since 2000 received hospital treatment as a direct result. [127463]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of individuals involved in road traffic accidents in Taunton and Somerset is not available in the requested format. Tables have been placed in the Library, which provide data for hospital admissions where the external cause was road traffic accidents for patients who lived in the Dorset and Somerset strategic health authority area since 2000.

Mental Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many mental health patients who committed suicide in the last 10 years were first treated by the NHS on an adult mental health ward when they were under the age of 18 years; [120664]

(2) how many mental health patients who committed a homicide in the last 10 years were first treated by the NHS on an adult mental health ward when they were under the age of 18 years; [120665]

(3) how many times in the last 10 years an inquiry has been carried out into a suicide by a mental health patient where the patient was first treated on an adult mental health ward when they were under the age of 18; [120649]

(4) how many times in the last 10 years an inquiry has been carried out into a homicide by a mental health patient where the patient was first treated on an adult mental health ward when they were under the age of 18. [120650]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 19 February 2007]:* Information is not collected in the format requested.

The Confidential Inquiry into homicides and suicides has been asked by the Department (via the National Patient Safety Agency) to collect this information. This process will begin in April 2007.

Mid-Essex Hospital Trust: Hospital Beds

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS hospital beds there are in the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust area; and how many there were in *(a)* January 1997, *(b)* January 2001 and *(c)* May 2005. [127985]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the average daily number of beds at Mid-Essex Hospital Service NHS Trusts for each of the financial years requested.

	Total number of beds
1996-97	888
2000-01	843
2005-06	809

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the work force of the NHS in England, expressed in terms of *(a)* headcount and *(b)* whole-time equivalent, was represented by midwives in each year since 1997. [127644]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The proportion of the national health service work force represented by midwives since 1997 is shown in the following table. Between September 1997 and September 2005, the number of midwives employed in the NHS has increased by 2,423 (10.8 per cent.).

Qualified midwifery staff in England as a proportion of the total NHS work force as at 30 September each specified year

		Percentage
	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
1997	2.1	2.1
1998	2.1	2.1
1999	2.1	2.0
2000	2.0	2.0
2001	2.0	1.9
2002	1.9	1.9
2003	1.9	1.8
2004	1.9	1.8
2005	1.8	1.7

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical work force census

Multiple Sclerosis: AIDS

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of people in England who have *(a)* multiple sclerosis and *(b)* AIDS. [126122]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no estimate of the number of people living with multiple sclerosis.

In 2005 there were 43,625 individuals living in England diagnosed with HIV infection and who accessed HIV-related care or treatment. Of this number, 9,868 have had an AIDS defining illness between their date of first HIV diagnoses and 2005.

Estimates would suggest that additional to the 43,625 individuals living with diagnosed HIV infection in the United Kingdom, an additional third (approximately 14,000 to 15,000) remain undiagnosed.

National Centre for Health Outcomes Development

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development to report to her Department on the results of their research on emergency readmissions. [112409]

Andy Burnham: The Department expects to receive the report by June 2007.

NHS: Cleaning Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions since October 2004 matrons have exercised their authority to withhold payment for cleaning services by the process set out in the Matron's Charter. [123487]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not collect this information centrally. The withholding of payment is the final part of a process which provides an ultimate sanction if reconciliation steps fail.

Issues relating to the performance of individual cleaning contractors are managed by the parties to that contract.

NHS: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the contribution was from the budget of each participating primary care trust to the London-wide NHS Reserve in each year since 2002. [122421]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table shows primary care trust (PCT) top-slice forecast outturn to London strategic health authority at quarter three, 2006-07. From 2006-07 we have abolished planned support and given strategic health authorities the ability to generate reserves from top slicing their PCT allocations. This topslicing did not occur previous to 2006-07.

Q3 2006-07 PCT forecast outturn topslice

PCT name	*£000*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	13,045
Barnet PCT	12,816
Bexley Care PCT	7,552
Brent Teaching PCT	12,015
Bromley PCT	10,952
Camden PCT	11,438
City and Hackney teaching PCT	14,840
Croydon PCT	12,462
Ealing PCT	13,042
Enfield PCT	10,294
Greenwich teaching PCT	11,235
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8,838
Haringey PCT	10,176
Harrow PCT	7,489
Havering PCT	9,352
Hillingdon PCT	9,045
Hounslow PCT	8,775
Islington PCT	9,932
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	8,034
Kingston PCT	5,924
Lambeth PCT	13,755
Lewisham PCT	11,719
Newham PCT	13,876
Redbridge PCT	9,114
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	6,629
Southwark PCT	11,819
Sutton and Merton PCT	13,553
Tower Hamlets PCT	12,268
Waltham Forest PCT	9,398
Wandsworth PCT	11,376
Westminster PCT	10,783

Source:
Financial monitoring returns quarter 3 2006-07

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the projected end-of-year revenue balance is for each primary care trust in England for the year 2006-07; [127956]

(2) how much and what percentage of its total allocations was top-sliced from each primary care trust's budget allocation in England for the year 2006-07. [127957]

Andy Burnham: This information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to top-slice the budgets of primary care trusts in England for the year 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [127958]

Andy Burnham: All national health service organisations are currently in the process of finalising their financial plans for 2007-08. We have made clear in the 2007-08 NHS operating framework that strategic health authorities (SHAs) will not generally require the scale of contribution to SHA reserves seen in 2006-07 because of the return of the NHS to overall financial balance this year.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the *(a)* advantages and *(b)* disadvantages of counting NHS staff using (i) headcount and (ii) whole-time equivalent basis; and if she will make a statement. [122650]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service workforce statistics are collected on both a headcount and whole time equivalent basis to enable the level of workforce resource to be accurately planned taking into account factors such as work/life balance. This will also feed into paybill and pension modelling, and numbers of training commissions.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the future need for *(a)* midwives, *(b)* school nurses and *(c)* health visitors; and if she will make a statement. [124452]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for local planners with support from the workforce review team to determine their future requirement for midwives, school nurses and health visitors to meet local service needs.

North London Breast Screening Service

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2303-04W, on the North London Breast Screening Service, what the action plan *(a)* to recommence breast screening and *(b)* to clear the backlog is; when she expects the full plan for the recommencement of screening services to be (i) completed and (ii) fully implemented; what other screening units are being considered; what the (A) longest and (B) average time is for which an individual has been waiting for a screening appointment; what the new procedures are which are to be embedded in the service; when she expects to be able to estimate the cost of the reorganisation and consequent additional cost; from which budget the costs will be met; and if she will make a statement. [127576]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* This is a local matter. However, the trust is currently working towards the completion of detailed plans to reopen the service during April. The service has been subject to an external review by the national breast screening service quality assurance team. The implementation of all the recommendations arising

from the review continues to form a key part of the planning process. The trust will be able to confirm the precise arrangements for resuming the service after the review team has completed its work and is expected to have happened by the end of March.

Plans for clearing the backlog are currently being developed as part of the overall planning process to reopen the service. Preliminary contacts have been made with other breast screening units in London to assess the potential for contracting additional capacity from other providers to assist with clearing the backlog.

A full action plan is currently being drawn up for the recommencement of screening services. This will be completed and implemented once the outcome of the external review is known. The full plan is expected to be in place by the end of March.

Patients currently wait an average of three years to be screened in line with national standards. All women currently due for an appointment will have to wait an additional three months due to the temporary closure of the unit.

A number of new procedures are being introduced to ensure the efficient and safe running of the unit in the future, including:

implementation of a comprehensive framework for the management of quality in the breast screening service.

right results guidelines—this deals with the initial suspension issue of ensuring women who have had a normal mammogram are re-invited for an appointment when they mention other possible symptoms during their appointment.

It is important to note that the temporary suspension of the service was not due to financial considerations. However, the additional financial costs for resuming the service will depend on the outcome and recommendations of the quality assurance review. It is therefore not possible to make an estimate of the costs at this time.

The primary care trusts and the trust are in ongoing discussion as to how the costs will be shared between the organisations.

Ophthalmology: Training

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the merits of funding continuing education training for dispensing opticians. [127301]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* The national health service provides a contribution to the cost of continuing education and training for professions whose income derives in part from providing NHS services. Under deregulatory changes approved by Parliament in 1986, the NHS provides optical vouchers to certain eligible groups to assist in buying glasses or contact lenses, but the dispensing of glasses is carried out on a private basis. The Department considers that these arrangements work well in promoting choice and access to services and that it would be anomalous to use public funds to make continuing education and training payments to health care professionals who do not provide services under contract to the NHS.

Patient Choice Schemes: Surveys

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors were taken into account in choosing Ipsos MORI to provide the NHS's GP patient survey into hospital choice. [123118]

Andy Burnham: Ipsos MORI was chosen in line with the Department's procurement guidelines.

Patients: Telephones

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bedside patient telephone units are provided by hospitals in each primary care trust in England. [123428]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected on a primary care trust basis. However, information is available for strategic health authorities (SHAs).

The number of operational bedside television and telephone units, per SHA is shown in the table.

SHA	*Number of operational bedside television and telephone units*[1]
East Midlands	1,489
East of England	7,516
London	11,647
North East	6,686
North West	16,152
South Central	5,730
South East Coast	5,826
South West	8,671
West Midlands	7,195
Yorkshire and the Humber	9,246
Total	80,158

[1] Data as at June 2006 note: this information is no longer collected centrally.

Peyronie's Disease: Medical Treatments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has provided to NHS trusts on the recommended treatment for Peyronie's disease; [126255]

(2) which NHS trusts will provide implants as treatment for Peyronie's disease. [126256]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not provided national health service trusts with advice on the treatment of Peyronie's disease. Treatment options will depend on the severity of the disease, and can include the insertion of an implant for the most severe cases.

Information on which trusts provide implants as treatment for Peyronie's disease is not collected.

Pregnant Women: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in Lancashire failed to have ante-natal check-ups in each of the last five years. [125742]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Primary Care Trusts: Voluntary Organisations

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the performance of primary care trusts in implementing the compact with voluntary organisations in their area. [125290]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2002, the Department wrote to all national health service organisations in England asking them to sign up to, or be working towards, a geographically relevant local compact by 31 March 2004. Data to confirm the extent to which this was achieved are not available centrally (although anecdotal evidence would suggest that progress has not been uniform).

I made a fresh commitment to the principles of the compact on 1 December 2006 in a joint statement with Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). In addition, following the report of the Third Sector Commissioning Task Force last July, the "Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing", published for consultation on 6 March, reflects the principles of the compact in positioning the third sector as an important contributor to the commissioning and provision of high quality, responsive services, and promoting a fair playing field for all providers.

Psychiatry: Private Sector

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the NHS made to the Priory Group and its subsidiaries in each year since 2000. [125942]

Caroline Flint: The Department has made no payments to the Priory Hospitals Group in the period April 2002 and February 2007. Information relating to earlier years is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

We do not hold a list of all the subsidiaries of the Priory Group but the Department have not made payments to any of the clinics listed on the Priory Group webpage.

Information relating to payments by the NHS is not held by the Department.

Royal Surrey County Hospital

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pieces of correspondence were received by her Department on the subject of the future of the Royal Surrey hospital during *(a)* November 2006, *(b)* December 2006 and *(c)* January 2007. [123182]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The numbers of letters received by the Department concerning the future of the Royal Surrey hospital, in the period 1 November 2006 to 30 January 2007 inclusive are as follows.

Month	*Pieces of correspondence received*
November 2006	1,243
December 2006	374
January 2007	118

Social Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which inspection regimes monitor local authorities' activities in social care. [124531]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) monitors and regulates local authorities' regulated social care services and local authorities' performance in delivering their adult social services functions. Councils' performance in delivering social services for children are monitored through joint area reviews and annual performance assessments, led by Ofsted and in conjunction with CSCI.

In addition, some inspections are run jointly with the Healthcare Commission, the Housing Inspectorate or the Audit Commission.

All assessments of council performance in social care feed into the comprehensive performance assessment, led by the Audit Commission.

The responsibility for assessing councils' provision of regulated children's social care services will pass to Ofsted on 1 April.

CSCI publishes comprehensive performance assessments and reports on local authorities on its website at www.csci.org.uk.

Sunscreens

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will commission research into the relationship between the cost of sunscreen and the prevalence of its use. [120489]

Caroline Flint: The Department has no plans at present to commission such research. SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign, run by Cancer Research United Kingdom on behalf of the UK Health Departments recommends:

spend time in the shade between 11 and 3;

make sure you never burn;

aim to cover up with a hat, t-shirt and sunglasses;

remember to take extra care with children; and

then use factor 15+ sunscreen or higher.

Surgery: Foreign Workers

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visiting surgeons operated in the NHS in each of the past five years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* surgeons' country of origin, *(b)* type of operations conducted and *(c)* employing hospital. [119012]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Surgery: Out-patients

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of outpatient operations were cancelled in each NHS Trust area in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [126479]

Andy Burnham: Data are collected on the number of last minute cancellations, where a hospital cancels a patient for non-clinical reasons on the day the patient is due to be admitted or after arrival in hospital, or on the day of surgery.

Number of operations cancelled at the last minute and as percentage of elective activity

	Quarter One		*Quarter Two*		*Quarter Three*		*Quarter Four*		*Annual*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
1996-97	11,595	1	11,055	0.9	13,023	1.1	16,374	1.4	52,047	1.1
1997-98	12,019	1	11,550	1	12,476	1	14,460	1.2	55,505	1.1
1998-99	12,384	1	11,470	0.9	14,611	1.1	17,685	1.3	56,150	1.1
1999-2000	12,313	0.9	12,017	0.9	15,769	1.2	20,143	1.5	60,242	1.1
2000-01	17,033	1.3	16,965	1.2	18,844	1.4	24,976	1.8	77,818	1.4
2001-02	20,833	1.6	20,901	1.6	20,036	1.5	19,973	1.5	81,743	1.5
2002-03	14,808	1.1	14,826	1.1	17,706	1.3	19,914	1.4	67,257	1.2
2003-04	14,092	1.1	14,364	1	17,782	1.3	20,065	1.4	66,303	1.2
2004-05	14,672	1.1	14,929	1.1	17,402	1.3	21,566	1.6	68,569	1.2
2005-06	15,690	1.1	13,058	0.9	14,819	1	17,236	1.2	60,803	1
2006-07	12,562	0.9	12,275	0.8	12,622	0.9	—	—	—	—

Warneford Meadow

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for the future of Warneford Meadow in Oxford. [127920]

Caroline Flint: It has been agreed that ownership of Warneford Meadow will transfer from the Secretary of State for Health to the local health economy. It is a matter for the local national health service to determine how best to use their resources to meet local health needs.

Written Questions

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to answer questions *(a)* 119012, *(b)* 119018, *(c)* 119016, *(d)* 119017 and *(e)* 119009 on the treatment of Welsh patients in English hospitals tabled by the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham. [128358]

Andy Burnham: Answers have been given today.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 20 March 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Doran: To ask the Leader of the House whether the Members Estimate Committee has drawn up a detailed proposal for a communications allowance for hon. Members to assist in the work of communicating with the public on parliamentary business in accordance with the Resolution of 1 November 2006. [128315]

Mr. Straw: The Members Estimate Committee's report on the 'Communications Allowance' was published yesterday as House of Commons Paper number 319.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the number of internally-displaced people in Afghanistan; and what assessment he has made of recent trends in that number. [127067]

Hilary Benn: The Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and the UN monitor the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Afghanistan. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) most recent assessment, conducted in early 2007, the estimated figure for long-standing IDPs in Afghanistan is some 130,000. Around 85 per cent. of these are located in four settlements in the south of the country.

DFID is not directly involved in making such assessments, but monitors UN/GoA figures closely. We are most closely involved with IDPs in Helmand, where last year the UN estimated that around 2,800 families had been displaced. The UK Government responded to this by providing food aid and essential items like soap and blankets for 3,000 internally displaced families. This aid was distributed by the GoA.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128256]

Mr. Thomas: DFID currently uses Royal Mail for the majority of its mail. In addition, there is also an overnight delivery service which transports various items including mail between DFID's two headquarters in London and East Kilbride, Scotland; this service is provided by TNT. Most items sent overseas go via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Bag Service. A small quantity of mail is sent by various commercial courier companies such as DDI, Churchill's, DHL and Initial City Link.

Developing Countries: Air Pollution

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to raise the matter of the impact of indoor air pollution in the developing world at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in April. [128141]

Mr. Thomas: The 15th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 15) will take place in New York from 30 April to 11 May 2007. The four main themes this year are; Energy for Sustainable Development, Air Pollution/Atmosphere, Industrial Development and Climate Change.

The UK is working with the current EU presidency to agree EU priorities for CSD 15, led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) with the support of DFID. These include reducing indoor air pollution due to the use of basic biomass fuels by households in developing countries for cooking and heating. The use of basic biomass arises from the lack of access to reliable, affordable and clean energy supplies. We will continue efforts to ensure this concern is included in the formal EU position and raised at CSD 15.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to tackle deaths in the developing world caused by indoor air pollution. [128142]

Mr. Thomas: Indoor air pollution is a considerable health hazard for approximately 2.4 billion people around the world relying on poorly designed wood, dung and coal burning stoves for their cooking and heating. DFID has funded research into the problem, with a current £253,000 programme due to end in July 2007. This is being carried out by Practical Action, a UK based non-governmental organisation active in many developing countries.

While raising awareness of the health risks may change behaviour to reduce exposure to smoke, the best solution is to improve access to reliable, affordable and clean energy supplies. DFID is supporting international efforts and programmes to improve access, including the EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI), the World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) and the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP).

We are working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to ensure indoor pollution is raised at the forthcoming 15th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 15) taking place in New York from 30 April to 11 May 2007.

Developing Countries: Water

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of reed-bed technology as a means of tackling water problems in the developing world. [127168]

Hilary Benn: Water shortages exist in many countries, and there is a risk of water pollution from human activities. Technologies for sanitation and wastewater management for specific situations are recommended on the basis of individual merits, and with the agreement of partners, taking account of local technical, financial, economic, social, and other considerations.

The use of Gravel Bed Hydroponic (GBH) reed beds, conventional reed beds or constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment has been the subject of various DFID funded research projects over the last 20 years.

For instance, from 1991 to 1995, DFID funded research into the use of reed beds to treat domestic and industrial wastewater in Egypt. Teams of scientists and engineers in the UK (University of Portsmouth) and Egypt (Suez Canal University) built, monitored and evaluated the operational performance of constructed wetlands as an appropriate technology for semi-arid, developing countries. The research did not provide clear evidence that reed beds were the most appropriate wastewater treatment option, and showed that industrial wastes resulted in erratic performance efficiency.

The outputs of successful research and similar projects are promoted through dissemination channels such as our resource centre network and websites. These technologies have also been promoted in DFID programmes where appropriate. One in Bangladesh in collaboration with WaterAid has seen the use of reed bed technology in the urban environment evidenced.

DFID Central Research Department is currently considering whether to develop a water and sanitation 'Research into Use' programme to promote the adoption of technologies generated through research. Such a programme might analyse the potential of outputs and fund uptake promotion of those technologies with greatest potential.

Mozambique: Floods

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid he is making available to the survivors of the recent flooding and cyclone in Mozambique. [128162]

Hilary Benn: DFID's total contribution to the relief effort in response to both the recent flooding and cyclone in Mozambique stands at £1.09 million. This is made up of donations to Save the Children, Oxfam, the Red Cross and CARE.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps his Department is taking to assist those who have been affected by economic collapse in Zimbabwe; [127894]

(2) what recent representations his Department has received on the withholding of aid from Zimbabwe due to that country's political situation. [127895]

Hilary Benn: DFID has received no representations on the withholding of aid to Zimbabwe. The UK does not give direct funding to the Government of Zimbabwe. All DFID's funding is channelled through NGOs and UN agencies, much of it programmed jointly with other donors. We do not believe in cutting direct assistance to poor Zimbabweans and thus punishing them further for their unaccountable Government.

The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors of humanitarian support to Zimbabwe, supporting over 1.5 million of the poorest people. Over the last five years, DFID has spent approximately £143 million in Zimbabwe, including over £33 million in the last financial year. This funding prioritises HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and supporting orphans and vulnerable children. DFID also supports civil society organisations to promote better governance and human rights. Our current programmes will help ensure that an additional 30,000 people receive anti-retroviral treatment, will provide health care for around 350,000 children, promote food security in urban and rural areas and assist extremely vulnerable displaced people.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Dental Health

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment was made of the oral health of recruits to each of the armed services in each year for which records are available. [126427]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Dental Services (DDS) conduct an oral health assessment of all recruits to the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. This assessment is of the oral fitness status and initial treatment requirement for each individual and is recorded in the individual's dental record. HQ DDS hold a record of individual fitness rates for recruits from 2004. The table shows the percentage of recruits from each service since records began who were:

1—Fit

2—Fit for role (dental work may be needed but no disease present)

3—Unfit

Percentage

	Royal Navy			*Army*			*RAF*		
	1	*2*	*3*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*1*	*2*	*3*
2004	68.0	28.2	3.8	29.1	33.0	37.9	51.0	39.6	9.4
2005	43.0	44.3	12.7	30.8	36.5	32.6	50.3	40.0	9.7
2005	44.3	43.6	12.1	30.4	36.8	32.4	54.8	37.0	8.2

Armed Forces: Expenditure

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure was on each of the armed services in each of the last 15 years. [127572]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2145W, to the hon. Member for Newport, West (Paul Flynn). Earlier accounts are contained within the MOD's Appropriation Accounts, copies of which can be found in the Library of the House. Budgetary structure and accounting treatment has changed progressively across the period in question.

Armed Forces: Voluntary Organisations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's charging regime is for events organised by charities when the main beneficiary is a services charity; [125567]

(2) on which occasions his Department waived fees for charity events organised by services charities in the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06; and what the total amount of fees waived was; [125568]

(3) what charges his Department made on events organised by services charities for the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06. [125569]

Derek Twigg: The MOD is required to recover the full cost of the services or facilities it provides to external bodies. HM Treasury rules for all Departments state that there are no special arrangements for the treatment of charities whether services or other.

The information on charges made for events organised by services charities is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Costs

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the running costs were of the housing provided by his Department to the *(a)* Adjutant General, *(b)* Chief of the General Staff and *(c)* members of the Army Board in the last 12 months; [118182]

(2) what estimate he has made of the market value of the housing provided by his Department to the *(a)* Chief of the General Staff, *(b)* Adjutant General and *(c)* members of the Army Board. [118184]

Derek Twigg: The Army Board consists of the Secretary of State for Defence, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the Chief of the General Staff, the Second Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Commander in Chief Land Command, Adjutant General, Assistant Chief of the General Staff, the Director General of Land Equipment, Master General of the Ordnance and General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland).

Civilian members of the Army Board are not entitled to occupy defence accommodation.

The following table shows the latest available (financial year 2005-06) running costs for MOD provided housing.

£

	CGS	AG	GOC NI	Post CinC Land
Rent	8,645	11,088	n/a	14,490
Utilities	5,657.15	5,158.02	4,739.30	6,629.43
Maintenance	453	13,284.44	4,702.52	7,475.57
Staff	130,103.13	61,259.59	110,161.19	155,082.01
Total	144,858.28	90,790.05	119,603	183,677.01

n/a = not applicable

In addition, ACGS occupies substitute single service accommodation rented from a private landlord at a cost to the MOD of £1,434.38 per month.

All service personnel living in accommodation personally pay charges appropriate to the size and condition of the property they occupy, deducted at source from their salaries.

The houses occupied by the Adjutant General and CinC Land are rented properties. The house occupied by CGS is leased from the Crown estate. The MOD has not therefore assessed the market value of these properties.

The house occupied by GOC NI is owned by the MOD and is located within a barracks behind the wire. The current asset register value for the house is £66,306 but this does not represent the market value. No assessment of market value has been carried out.

Army: Manpower

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many members of the armed forces are assigned to the household of the *(a)* Adjutant General and *(b)* Chief of the General Staff; [118180]

(2) how many members of the armed forces are assigned to the households of members of the Army Board. [118183]

Derek Twigg: The Army Board consists of the Secretary of State for Defence, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the Chief of the General Staff, the Second Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Commander in Chief Land Command, Adjutant General, Assistant Chief of the General Staff, the Director General of Land Equipment, Master General of the Ordnance and General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland).

Of the 12 members of the Army Board, four have members of the armed forces assigned to their households; the Chief of the General Staff has two, Commander in Chief Land has two, the Adjutant General has one, and the General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland) has two.

These figures do not include drivers or any other position related staff.

Army: Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* general service soldiers, *(b)* full-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, *(c)* part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, *(d)* full-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment and *(e)* part-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment are automatically entitled to be members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. [128623]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* General service soldiers and full-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service are automatically entitled to be members of one of the Armed Forces Pension Schemes. Full-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment had an automatic entitlement to be

members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75). Part-time members of the Royal Irish Home Service are not entitled to be members of one of the Armed Forces Pension Schemes. Similarly, part-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment were not entitled to be members of the AFPS 75 Scheme.

The policy in relation to the non-pensionable status of part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment is currently being challenged through an industrial tribunal.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* general service soldiers, *(b)* full-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, *(c)* part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, *(d)* full-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment and *(e)* part-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment contribute directly from their pay into the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. [128629]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* None of these groups make a contribution from their pay into the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. When setting pay levels for all personnel up to Brigadier and equivalents, the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) looks at a range of factors in their consideration of overall pay comparability. Pension is just one of these factors. The AFPRB then makes an adjustment to comparator earnings to reflect the value of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) benefits compared with the pension benefits of comparator employees.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what benefits have been provided since 1977 by the Armed Forces Pension Scheme to *(a)* general service soldiers, *(b)* full-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, *(c)* part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, *(d)* full-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment and *(e)* part-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment and the (i) widows, (ii) widowers and (iii) children of such soldiers. [128631]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The Army Pensions Warrant 1977 contains details of all the pension benefits provided under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75). SI 438/2005 and SI 717/2006 (Amendment) contain details of all the pension benefits provided under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 (AFPS 05). These have already been placed in the Library. However, part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, part-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants are not entitled to pensions under the Armed Forces Pension Schemes.

The policy in relation to the non-pensionable status of part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment is being challenged through an industrial tribunal.

Cluster Munitions

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcomes of the Oslo conference on cluster munitions were; how his Department plans to implement the agreement reached at the conference; and if he will make a statement. [124539]

Mr. Ingram: The UK supported the Oslo Declaration, committing us to work towards a new legally binding instrument on certain types of cluster munition that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. The UK's interpretative statement at Oslo explains how this fits with our national policy. We will continue to pursue the intent agreed at Oslo with all the users and producers through the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and other relevant forums.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what he expects the effects of the outcome of the Oslo conference on cluster munitions to be on the Government's maintenance of stockpiles of *(a)* dumb and *(b)* not-dumb cluster munitions; and if he will make a statement. [124540]

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the use of the UK's stockpiled cluster bombs, following the Oslo conference, broken down by type of cluster bomb. [127194]

Mr. Ingram: On 4 December 2006 we stated in a Written Ministerial Statement the UK position on cluster munitions and that we would withdraw dumb variants by the middle of the next decade. On 15 December, in debate in the House of Lords, we explained that we were examining the possibility of bringing this date forward. We have now completed our assessment and, as we stated in a Written Ministerial Statement on 20 March 2007, we will now withdraw our two dumb cluster munition variants, the RBL755 and MLRS M26, with immediate effect. We shall retain our other cluster munition, the ERBS M85, which we do not deem to be a dumb cluster munition.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 960W, on bombs, what he expects the effects of the outcome of the Oslo conference on cluster munitions to be on the Government's procurement of the *(a)* guided multiple launch rocket system and *(b)* the Brimstone advanced anti-armour weapon; and if he will make a statement. [124541]

Mr. Ingram: The outcome of the Oslo conference will not affect procurement of the guided multiple launch rocket system and the Brimstone advanced anti-armour weapon.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 960W, on the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), which individuals were sent a copy of the March 2004 DESO staff directory and were not employees of defence industry companies. [128396]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* It is not our normal practice to disclose the names of individuals with whom we have communicated in the course of departmental business. We consider such information to be personal data, which the individuals concerned can reasonably expect that we would neither publish nor otherwise disclose to a third party.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many copies of the 2005 edition of the Defence Export Services Organisation staff directory were distributed to individuals outside his Department; and what categories of people were given copies of the directory. [128397]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The information requested forms part of a witness statement submitted by the Ministry of Defence to the Information Tribunal, which will next month hear a case under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning the staff directory of the Defence Export Services Organisation. I will write to the hon. Member after the tribunal has delivered its decision and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departments: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many independent bodies existed to hear appeals on decisions made by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many there have been in 2006-07 to date. [121702]

Derek Twigg: There are two independent bodies whose function is to hear appeals on decisions made by the Ministry of Defence. The Reserve Forces Appeals Tribunal, created in 1997, hears appeals against call-out for service, or against the level of financial assistance to be provided after call-out, lodged by reservists or their employers. The Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors, established in 1970, hears (but does not decide) appeals from service personnel whose application to retire or to resign a commission on the grounds of conscience has not been accepted by the service authorities.

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many complaints were received by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have been received in 2006-07 to date; [121701]

(2) how many staff worked in dedicated complaints units in his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have done so in 2006-07 to date. [121703]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence does not keep a central record of complaints, and to gather this data would involve disproportionate cost.

Complaints are generally dealt with by subject-matter experts alongside other correspondence on the same subject. There are, however, two teams whose main role is dealing with complaints. One handles internal reviews of responses to FOI requests, and subsequent appeals to the Information Commissioner and the Information Tribunal. Before the FOI Act came fully into force in January 2005, similar work was carried out under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. The second team deals with complaints about service flying in the lower airspace. The strengths of these teams are shown in the following table.

Strength in full-time equivalent staff of complaints teams

Team	*1997-98*	*2001-02*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
FOI appeals team	0	1	3	3.5
Low flying complaints unit	5	5	4	4

Departments: Hilsea

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what basis his Department has asked for a compliant bid from potential developers for the redundant Ministry of Defence site at Matapan Road, Hilsea; and if he will make a statement. [127448]

Derek Twigg: Formal tenders are an appropriate method of selling surplus public sector assets because they create a level playing field for all prospective purchasers. They provide transparency and certainty of bids and so avoid the potential difficulties sometimes associated with informal negotiations. In this case the site had the benefit of outline planning permission and agreed SI 06 contributions and thus was suitable for sale by formal tender. It was advertised through Defence Estates' marketing agents, Drivers Jonas.

The bidding guidelines and legal conditions of sale made it clear that, in order to be compliant, all bids were to be submitted on the appropriate 'Form of Offer' with a 10 per cent. deposit and on an unconditional basis only. Moreover, the conditions of sale stated that the Ministry of Defence reserved the right to disregard any tender which was not submitted in accordance with the conditions of sale including any marked subject to contract.

Ex-servicemen

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when a veterans' card will be available; what the attributes of the proposed veterans' card are; why there has been a delay in producing a veterans' card; and what companies and organisations he has met to discuss the production of the card. [119235]

Derek Twigg: The Department has received recent approaches from two companies—EDS and Forces Online—proposing the introduction of a veterans' card. I have met with EDS and officials have met with both companies to explore the possible benefits. We have separately consulted ex-service organisations to seek their views on the merits of such a card; their clear conclusion was that there was no significant tangible benefit to be had from a card and that the idea was not therefore worth pursuing. In the light of these discussions, we have no current plans to introduce a veterans' card but will keep the matter under review.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department provides to ensure that skills and qualifications obtained by personnel during their period in the armed forces can be utilised and applied in civilian life; and if he will take steps to improve the assistance available to ex-service personnel in this regard. [127362]

Derek Twigg: The provision of opportunities for service personnel to gain nationally recognised civilian

qualifications is an important component of the MOD's Personnel Strategy and is detailed in "Defence Policy for the Accreditation of Education, Training and Experience", which aims to have military training, education and experience, where appropriate, accredited against nationally recognised qualifications. Furthermore, the priorities set in this policy are aligned with those in the Government's National Skills Strategy, focusing particularly on qualifications in literacy and numeracy and in wider employability skills, such as NVQs and Apprenticeships, but also accreditation leading to higher education qualifications, including Foundation Degrees.

Although the attainment of the operational requirement remains the primary goal of military training, accreditation to civilian qualifications has an obvious benefit to recruiting, retention and resettlement. The success of this policy is such that, in the last financial year, personnel in the armed services gained:

in excess of 11,000 NVQs or other Level 2 qualifications;

over 8,000 apprenticeships at either Levels 2 or 3;

and 500 completed Foundation Degrees.

In addition, staff are constantly seeking further opportunities with Awarding Bodies to extend the linkage of military training, education and experience to appropriate civilian qualifications.

However, it is more difficult for Awarding Bodies to validate, in terms of quality assurance and syllabus content, military training and education that was undertaken by serving and ex-serving personnel a number of years ago and thus provide retrospective accreditation opportunities. For those who have left the services with no or very low level qualifications, there are opportunities with local colleges and training providers to gain civilian qualifications funded through schemes such as the Learning and Skills Council's "Train to Gain".

Financial assistance is also provided to support service personnel in gaining nationally-recognised qualifications for their own personal development through the Armed Forces Learning Credits Schemes. First, under the Standard Learning Credit Scheme, service personnel are eligible to claim from public funds 80 per cent. of course fees, up to a maximum of £175 per financial year. Secondly, the Enhanced Learning Credit (ELC) Scheme (introduced in 2004) provides larger scale support to pay for higher level academic and vocational learning at Level 3 or above on the National Qualifications Framework. The claim limit is also 80 per cent. of the annual fee (the claimant making a minimum 20 per cent. personal contribution to demonstrate their commitment). Individuals can draw down a maximum of £1,000 per annum on three occasions after serving four years from registration, and this rises to £2,000 per annum having served eight years after registration. Since the introduction of the ELC Scheme, over 225,000 personnel have registered with 16,500 claims made. While the majority of those registered have not yet made a claim, many of the claims are made in the last two years of service and are used alongside individuals' resettlement provision. Moreover, claims under the ELC Scheme can be made up to 10 years after leaving the armed forces.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many sorties British personnel have participated in flying in *(a)* SAMA CH2000 and *(b)* SB7L Seeker aircraft flown by Iraqi pilots; [127024]

(2) how many sorties have been flown in support of British ground operations by Iraqi air force aircraft; [127025]

(3) whether helicopters supplied by the UK to the Iraqi air force will be available to support British ground operations. [127028]

Mr. Ingram: While some UK personnel have flown in Seeker aircraft this is not a regular occurrence and no record of such activity is kept. In the last two months some 70 sorties have been flown in support of British ground operations by Iraqi air force aircraft. No helicopters have been supplied by the UK to the Iraqi air force.

Living Accommodation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the procedures are for assessing the cleanliness and habitability of armed forces personnel housing before a new tenant moves in; and how many complaints were lodged upon moving in about unclean or ill-equipped housing in each year since 2004. [103744]

Derek Twigg: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member's question. For Great Britain the procedures for assessing the cleanliness and habitability of service families accommodation (SFA) are laid down in the MOD's Housing Management Manual. A number of separate checks for levels of cleanliness and inspections on equipment are carried out prior to a service family moving into SFA. The standards are set out in the contracts with the service providers for SFA and incorporated in the Guide to Living in Service Family Accommodation.

In England and Wales, there are more than 20,000 move-ins each year. Prior to the rolling-out of the Housing Prime Contract (HPC) in 2006, there were no separate complaints recorded for the level of cleanliness. Under the HPC, in 2006 there were 573 separately recorded complaints about cleanliness. This level of complaints was due to the early problems experienced with the HPC. There is no separate recording process for ill-equipped housing.

In Scotland, houses are maintained through a regional prime contract. There are some 1,500 move-ins each year in Scotland and the number of overall complaints in Scotland were three in 2004, four in 2005 and two in 2006.

Marines: Criminal Records

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Marines were allowed to return to the service in 2006 having served a prison sentence. [128384]

Derek Twigg: In 2006 14 Royal Marines were subject to military detention at Military Corrective Training Centre Colchester and all continued in service

following completion of sentence. Additionally, three Royal Marines were imprisoned following conviction by civilian courts. One of these was retained in service on completion of sentence.

Puma Helicopters: Procurement

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his decision on the proposal to acquire eight Puma AS 330 SI helicopters from Eurocopter; and if he will make a statement. [126042]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* We are considering a number of options to increase the flexibility and capability of our helicopter fleet.

Warships

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what names have been selected by the Ships' Names and Badges Committee for the future *(a)* seventh and eighth Type 45 destroyers and *(b)* the fourth Astute class submarine. [128580]

Mr. Ingram: No names have been selected by the Ships' Names and Badges Committee for the seventh and eighth Type 45 destroyers. The name for the fourth Astute class submarine has been approved by Her Majesty the Queen and an official announcement will be made once the order has been placed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Smoking

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the Commission has decided where smoking will be permitted on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate after 1 July 2007. [128314]

Nick Harvey: The Health Act 2006 introduces a ban on smoking in workplaces and enclosed or substantially enclosed public places from 1 July 2007. While the Act does not formally apply on the parliamentary estate, the Commission, on the advice of the Administration Committee, has decided that the House should comply with the principles of the legislation, as it is not desirable that those who work on or visit the parliamentary estate should be treated differently in this respect from those in other workplaces and public places. The Commission recognises, however, that many who work on the estate are unavoidably present for long periods, particularly when the House is sitting. It is therefore desirable to make reasonable provision for those who wish to smoke to do so, provided that the health and safety of other users of the estate is not adversely affected.

With these principles in mind, the Commission has decided that smoking should cease to be permitted from 1 July 2007 in all internal areas of the House of Commons estate, including in bars and private offices. From that date smoking will, however, be permitted in four designated external areas: the Terrace, Commons Court (North West corner), North Terrace (between Portcullis House and Norman Shaw South), and in a designated area on the west side of Canon Row courtyard. Cigarette receptacles will be provided in these areas. "No Smoking" signs will be displayed at entrances to the buildings. I understand that the House of Lords Administration and Works Committee will report its recommendations shortly on the smoking policy for the Lords part of the parliamentary estate.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages Board

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is the Government's policy to retain the Agricultural Wages Board. [126010]

Barry Gardiner: Retention of the Agricultural Wages Board (AWB) is a Labour party manifesto commitment. This was re-affirmed by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) at the Labour party conference in September 2005. We considered the future operation of the AWB before Christmas and agreed that no changes should be made at the present time.

Departments: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Electricity and Gas (Energy Efficiency Obligations) Order 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126615]

Ian Pearson: The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for the Electricity and Gas (Energy Efficiency Obligations) Order 2004 estimated that the cost to energy suppliers of meeting their energy efficiency obligations for 2005-08 would be around £1,200 million. If passed on in full to their domestic customers, this would be no more than about £9 per fuel bill per customer per year. We do not anticipate any recurring costs for energy suppliers (other than complying with subsequent obligations). On average costs will be more than outweighed by the benefits to householders in terms of reduced fuel bills or increased comfort from the installation of energy efficiency measures. The RIA estimated that overall lifetime-discounted savings would amount to a net present value of around £1,000 million by 2010, £3,400 million by 2020 and £5,400 million over the lifetime of the measures. Ofgem has estimated that its direct costs of administration for the three-year programme will be around £1.2 million.

DEFRA is committed to regulating better and has a target of a 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens. The implementation of a more risk based approach to regulation, in conjunction with tougher penalties combined with improved effectiveness via focus on outcomes, and simplification where possible, is fully consistent with this.

Lighting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs of *(a)* manufacturing and *(b)* disposing of (i) an energy friendly light bulb and (ii) an incandescent light bulb. [127592]

Ian Pearson: The Department does not hold information on the costs of manufacturing and disposal of either energy friendly or bayonet light bulbs. This commercial information is held by the companies concerned.

Sewage

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to implement his plans to transfer responsibility for private sewers to sewerage companies; and if he will make a statement. [128606]

Ian Pearson: I announced on 22 February the Government's decision to proceed with the transfer to water and sewerage companies of private sewers and lateral drains in England draining to the public sewerage system. This offers the most comprehensive solution to the problems faced by householders whose properties are connected to a private sewer or lateral drain.

The Government will now consult on a range of ways transfer can be implemented. The consultation will also be used to examine how to prevent the proliferation of new private sewers, in order to prevent the reoccurrence of existing problems. The responses to consultation will inform the drafting of regulations to provide for Water and Sewerage Companies (WaSCs) to make 'schemes' to effect transfer. The earliest date these regulations could be in force is likely to be summer 2008.

TRANSPORT

East Coast Railway Line

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what priority has been given to the redevelopment of existing station facilities in the advice given to bidders for the East Coast Mainline franchise. [128600]

Mr. Tom Harris: Bidders for the InterCity East Coast franchise have been advised of the need to enhance station facilities. These include improving facilities for cyclists, additional car parking spaces and improvements to accessibility for passengers to and from stations. An important dimension is the need for security at stations for passengers and staff through the retention of the present secure station accreditation at all stations where the franchisee is the station facility owner (SFO).

The plan for improving station facilities is given equal weighting to other plans required from the bidding parties.

Galileo Project

Mr. David: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which countries have put in bids for the Galileo satellite navigation project; [123596]

(2) what progress has been made at a European level on the Galileo satellite navigation project. [123597]

Dr. Ladyman: The European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA) is the EU agency that will own Galileo on behalf of the Community and be responsible for regulating and overseeing it. It has been set up in Brussels initially and is currently being staffed. Eleven member states are bidding to provide it with a permanent location: Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, and the UK—with a bid for Cardiff. Germany has not made a decision on the location of the GSA a priority during its current presidency of the Union.

The technical development of the system is a joint project of the European Commission and the European Space Agency. Contracts have been let to Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. for a test satellite, successfully launched in December 2005, and to European Satellite Navigation Industries for another test satellite and for the first four operational satellites that will validate the system.

It is intended that a private sector concessionaire will manage and operate the Galileo system under a 20 year concession, in a public-private partnership (PPP). The GSA has been negotiating with a consortium bidding for this role. The Commission target is for the contract to be signed by end 2007. Full operational capability of the Galileo system is currently expected in 2011-12.

Lighthouses: Ireland

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the basis is in international law for the UK's contribution to the Irish lights fund. [127962]

Dr. Ladyman: Regulation 13 of Chapter V of the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea places a general responsibility on contracting Governments for the adequate provision of aids to navigation in and around each of their respective coastal areas. Under Part VIII of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, responsibility for the provision of marine aids to navigation has been given to the general lighthouse authorities (GLAs). These are Trinity House Lighthouse Service, the Northern Lighthouse Board and the Commissioners of Irish Lights, which provides aids to navigation around the coast of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Under the Merchant Shipping Act, the expenses incurred by all three GLAs are paid out of the general lighthouse fund (GLF), into which are paid light dues collected in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The GLF is administered by the Secretary of State. Under an agreement signed in 1985, the Irish Government agreed to contribute to the provision of aids to navigation in the Republic. There is no contribution from the UK Government to the GLF nor is there a separate Irish lights fund.

Official Cars

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W, on official cars, how many Cabinet Ministers have chosen the *(a)* Jaguar and *(b)* Prius. [128092]

Dr. Ladyman: Ministerial official cars are provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. Currently, six Cabinet Ministers use the diesel powered Jaguar XJ and five use the Toyota Prius.

Official Cars: Driving Offences

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving offences were committed by drivers while working for the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each year since 1997. [126905]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency conducts an annual inspection of all driving licences of its drivers. Any driver with six or more points on his or her licence is reminded that the maintenance of a valid licence is a requirement of the job.

Ports: Fees and Charges

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost, including harbour dues and pilotage costs, of access for ships to *(a)* British ports and *(b)* continental ports. [127963]

Dr. Ladyman: This Department has not carried out its own detailed assessment of these costs. In the United Kingdom, harbour dues and pilotage charges are set by individual harbours according to commercial decisions under their own harbour acts and under the Pilotage Act 1987. Harbour dues and pilotage charges in other countries are set similarly within their respective legislative and financial frameworks.

Ports: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the date was of each safety inspection carried out on a ship or an aircraft using a port or airport in Northern Ireland in the last three years for which figures are available; what the country of registration of the vessel or aircraft involved was in each case; and what the outcome was of the inspection in each case. [128131]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the countries of registration were of ships and aircraft using Northern Ireland's ports and airports in the last three years for which information is available. [128132]

Dr. Ladyman: The following list shows the various countries of registration of ships which used Northern Ireland's ports for the last 18 months. It is the only information available.

Antigua and Barbuda
Antilles, Netherlands
Bahamas
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Bermuda
Bulgaria
Cambodia
Cayman Islands
China
Comoros
Cook Islands
Croatia
Cyprus
Denmark
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Estonia
Faroe Islands
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Gibraltar
Greece
Grenada
Hong Kong, China
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Latvia
Liberia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Man Isle of
Marshall Islands
Myanmar
Netherlands
Norway
Panama
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Russian Federation
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Spain
St. Vincent and Grenadines
United Kingdom

The Department for Transport does not maintain the requested information on aircraft that have

operated to any UK airport. Such information would be found from the aircraft movement logs that are maintained by individual airports.

Railways: Bicycles

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of train services permit rail-users to take bicycles on board trains. [128164]

Mr. Tom Harris: All train operating companies (TOCs) permit the carriage of bikes. The Stansted Express carries only folding bikes and bikes flat packed for air travel. All other TOCs carry bikes though most have restrictions either on the number of bikes that can be carried or only carry folding bikes on some peak services.

This is in line with the Department's advice to TOCs that they carry bikes whenever possible in line with the cycling policy document first published by the former Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) in 2004 and since adopted by this Department.

We have asked Cycling England, our advisory body on cycling to carry out a review of how we might further improve the integration of bike and rail journeys in England.

Railways: Disabled

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been allocated for the Railways for All accessibility strategy; and if he will make a statement. [127998]

Mr. Tom Harris: £370 million has been allocated, up to 2015, to improve access at railway stations in Great Britain as part of the Railways for All strategy.

Railways: Taunton

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the reliability of *(a)* all train services from Taunton to Paddington and *(b)* the 7.07am train service from Taunton to Paddington in the last 12 months. [127845]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the year to 3 March 2007, the public performance measure moving annual average (PPM MAA) for First Great Western (FGW) train services as a whole was 83.3 per cent.[1] which is an increase of 0.6 per cent. on last year's performance. The Department for Transport does not keep separate records on the reliability of trains running from Taunton to Paddington.

A meeting has been held with FGW and Network Rail to assess performance and reliability. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and FGW to address performance trends and train reliability and these are monitored monthly.

[1] Source:
Network Rail

Road Traffic

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many major trunk road schemes there have been to improve safety and improve traffic flow at junctions since 1997. [125988]

Dr. Ladyman: There have been eight major (i.e. over £5 million) trunk road schemes to improve safety and traffic flow at junctions since 1997. These are as follows:

Scheme	*Scheme objective*
A34 Chieveley/M4 Jct 13 Improvement	Congestion relief, safety improvement
A1 Stannington Junction	Safety improvement
A64 Colton Lane Grade Separated Junction	Safety improvement
A14 Rookery Crossroads Grade Separated Junction	Safety improvement
A63 Melton Grade Separated Junction	Safety improvement, congestion relief
A500 City Road and Stoke Junction Improvement	Improving journey times, congestion relief, safety improvement.
A30/A382 Merrymeet Junction	Congestion relief, safety improvement
A419 Commonhead Junction	Congestion relief, safety improvement

Shipping: Registration

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library the report for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency by Mr. Geoff Adam on the re-launch of the UK Shipping Register. [127964]

Dr. Ladyman: The report is a commercially sensitive document. At this time we do not consider it appropriate to release it publicly.

South West Trains: Overcrowding

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research he has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the level of overcrowding on key routes operated by South West Trains (main line) and (ii) projected levels of overcrowding in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [127603]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department only has access to data covering passengers in excess of capacity (PIXC), which applies to weekday commuter trains arriving in London between 7 am and 9.59 am and those departing London between 4 pm and 6.59 pm. Within the terms of its franchise agreement, Stagecoach South West Trains is measured against total capacity provided and not the PIXC measure.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes PIXC figures in its National Rail Trends publication, the most recent version covering 2005 was published on 5 July 2006.

The document is on the internet at the following address http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/294.pdf and has been made available in the Library of the House.

With regard to future demand, the Network Rail route utilisation strategy assumed a growth of 20 per cent. over 10 years. The Department, in letting the new South Western franchise, asked bidders to develop innovative means to manage the expected increase in demand.

Tolls

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects the road pricing or congestion charging pilots funded by the Transport Innovation Fund *(a)* to involve the use of CCTV and *(b)* to be integrated with the Police's National Auto Number Plate Recognition Data Centre. [124340]

Dr. Ladyman: The choice of systems and technology to be used for road pricing or congestion charging schemes funded by the Transport Innovation Fund will be a matter for local authorities implementing the pilot schemes. The Department has published "Guidance for Local Authorities TIF partnership", which advises local authorities on different technologies available and how they might deploy them. We expect schemes to be focused on tackling congestion.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that rural issues are taken into account when decisions are made on any new road charging system. [128033]

Dr. Ladyman: No decisions have been taken on the introduction of a national road pricing scheme, or indeed on the design of any scheme. We are asking local authorities, in preparing proposals for local road pricing schemes, to assess the impacts on all groups so as to inform the scheme design.

TREASURY

Bank Notes

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of £5 notes in circulation; and what plans he has to increase the supply. [128438]

Ed Balls: The Bank of England is responsible for issuing banknotes in England and Wales. It estimates that on 28 February 2007 there were 220 million of its £5 notes in circulation with a total value of £1,100 million.

The Bank's policy is for supply of new notes each year to meet the banking system's demand. Therefore the Bank will increase supply in response to demand from the banking system.

Bank Notes: Greater London

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* £5, *(b)* £10 and *(c)* £20 notes are being stored in London by the Bank of England. [128437]

Ed Balls: The Bank of England's stocks of new notes stored in the UK on the 28 February 2007 are shown in the following table. For completeness, the figure for £50 notes is also included.

Denomination	*Value*	*£ million Number of notes*
£5	1,014.3	202.9
£10	3,697.9	369.8
£20	8,553.9	427.7
£50	908.4	18.2

For security reasons the Bank does not disclose the locations of the notes in storage.

Birth Rate

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of *(a)* the effect of fluctuations in birth rates on economic growth over the past 40 years and *(b)* the likely effect of such fluctuations on growth over the next 40 years. [127991]

John Healey: The Government set out their assessment of the effect of demographic factors on economic growth over past cycles, and their projection for the medium term, in each Budget and pre-Budget report. The Government published long-term employment and GDP projections covering the period up to 2055 in the 2006 'Long-term public finance report'.

The Government's forward projections take into account previous demographic trends, including fluctuations in birth rates. In addition, the Government's long-term projections take into account future birth rates as given by the Government Actuary's Department's latest set of principal population projections.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projection he has made of the number of births in England in each year until 2012. [128855]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 March 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what projection has been made of the number of births in England in each year until 2012. (128855)

The most recent projection of the number of births was published as part of the 2004-based national population projections published in October 2005. The information requested is available at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/2004/england/weng04cc.xls

The next (2006-based) national population projections are scheduled for publication in October 2007.

Child Tax Credit: ICT

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child tax credit claims are currently unpaid because of software problems. [128858]

Dawn Primarolo: In circumstances where HM Revenue and Customs is unable automatically to pay claimants their full entitlement it will arrange for manual payments to be made.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the software problem is which has prevented

payment of child tax credit from April 2006 to Mr. and Mrs. Symons of Verwood; [128859]

(2) when he expects to pay the child tax credit due to Mr. and Mrs. Symons of Verwood. [128860]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I laid before the House on 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 14-15WS.

HM Revenue and Customs will contact the hon. Member's constituents to discuss alternative arrangements to pay their child tax credit.

Construction Industry Scheme

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many temporary Construction Industry Scheme 4 cards were issued to migrant workers in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; [128145]

(2) how many temporary Construction Industry Scheme 4 cards were issued in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [128146]

John Healey: The number of temporary Construction Industry Scheme 4 cards issued in recent years is shown in the following table.

	Number of temporary CIS4 cards issued
2004-05	74,000
2005-06	77,000
2006-07[1]	66,000

[1] Data for 2006-07 are incomplete

The number of temporary Construction Industry Scheme 4 cards issued to migrant workers is not available.

Departments: London Underground

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times he has travelled on the London underground on official business in the last 12 months. [128737]

John Healey: The Chancellor has travelled on the London underground on numerous occasions during the last year on official business, the most recent being last week. It is not our practice to set out the details.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128001]

John Healey: The economical use of paper is part of the overall Waste Management Strategy. Under this strategy, staff are encouraged to use printers wisely, and recycling facilities are provided at every desktop.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many work permits were applied for by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [127710]

John Healey: In recruiting overseas nationals, the Treasury follows the Civil Service Nationality Rules published by the Cabinet Office.

The Treasury applied for three work permits in 2006-07. Information for previous years is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

History: Curriculum

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister for Scotland on promoting British history in Scottish schools. [127816]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers are in constant contact with colleagues on a wide variety of issues, including with colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Income Tax

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income tax was paid in the last year for which figures are available by individuals whose income did not exceed their tax free allowance; and what percentage was claimed back. [128165]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to identify how much income tax was paid by individuals on income below the personal allowance. However, the total amount of tax on savings income reclaimed by individuals is around £180 million per year.

Inheritance Tax

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households paid inheritance tax in each year since 1996-7. [128648]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of estates paying inheritance tax each year is published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax receipts/table1-4.xls.

Inheritance Tax: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Northern Ireland paid inheritance tax in each of the last five years. [128386]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of taxpaying estates where the domicile of the deceased was in Northern Ireland.

	Number of Northern Ireland estates paying inheritance tax
2000-01	600
2001-02	500
2002-03	500
2003-04	600
2004-05	500
2005-06	500

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in pay band 3 worked on the preparations of the original budget for the 2012 Olympics. [127978]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 13 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1198W.

Radio Frequencies: Licensing

Mr. Havard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of grant-in-aid has been agreed with Ofcom to undertake its spectrum management functions for 2007-08; and what spectrum auctions he expects Ofcom to undertake in 2007-08. [127673]

John Healey: £79 million of grant-in-aid has been agreed with Ofcom to undertake its spectrum management functions for 2007-08. There is a separate spending cap to cover awards of new spectrum and any costs of clearing spectrum.

The timetable for spectrum auctions is a matter for Ofcom as the independent regulator.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the costs of *(a)* transferring 0845 codes for HM Revenue and Customs services to a freephone 0800 service and *(b)* using a system where the customer is informed of his or her place in the telephone queue system and the likely time their call will be answered; and if he will assess the merits of introducing such changes. [127105]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC keeps its policy and practice for handling telephone calls from customers through its centrally managed contact centre network under constant review. It remains HMRC current policy to operate customer facing helplines using an 0845 rather than a "freephone" 0800 prefix as the Department believes this strikes the right balance of cost between the customer and the public purse.

HMRC is however also keeping a close watch on proposals being taken forward by Ofcom to introduce a new range of non-geographic "030" numbers.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what commitment his Department has made to funding for the Rural Development Programme. [128104]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide range of issues with their colleagues in other Departments as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Schools: Cadets

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 326W, on school cadet forces, whether Sir Ian Russell's replacement has taken over his responsibilities for cadet forces fundraising. [128423]

Dawn Primarolo: No.

In June 2006, the Government announced funding for the creation of six new state school cadet units. The new units will be set up for three-year pilot periods and will receive initial funding of £800,000 in 2007-08. The pilot expansion of cadet forces will be funded by Government, with a view to consideration of continued expansion of the cadet forces in future years.

Rod Aldridge was appointed chair of v, the new national youth volunteering charity established to take forward the recommendations of Ian Russell's report on youth action and engagement in April 2006. He engages in fundraising for a wide range of youth volunteering activities through v.

Taxation: EC Law

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* progress has been made with and *(b)* outcome has arisen in each group litigation order tax cases brought against the Government in the European Court since 2003 in which no proceedings are active in UK courts; and what estimate he has made of the likely impact on revenues in 2007-08. [127701]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 2003, four UK group litigation order tax cases have been referred to the ECJ.

For the Franked Investment Income Group Litigation and Class IV of the Advanced Corporation Tax Group Litigation, ECJ judgments were handed down on 12 December 2006. For the Thin Capitalisation Group Litigation, ECJ judgment was handed down on 13 March 2007. These three cases are now waiting a High Court hearing and so there have been no final outcomes. For the CFC and dividend GLO, the High Court referred this case to the ECJ on 15 March 2005, however no date has yet been fixed for an oral hearing. The case is therefore also not yet final.

Given that the outcome of none of these GLOs is final, it would be wrong to comment on revenue impact.

VAT: Public Bodies

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the legislative mechanisms are for making public bodies exempt from the payment of value added tax; and if he will make a statement; [128406]

(2) which public bodies have an exemption from the payment of value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [128407]

Dawn Primarolo: Public bodies pay VAT on their purchases in the same way as any other consumer or business. Under the principles of public funding, irrecoverable VAT costs, like other running costs, are taken into account when determining the funding

allocated to those bodies. This is the way the VAT system has worked in relation to public bodies since its introduction in 1973.

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether cases of forged tax credits resulting in prosecution *(a)* are reported to local jobcentres and *(b)* affect the payment of benefits to the individual concerned. [128686]

Dawn Primarolo: Criminal Investigation within HMRC is responsible for prosecuting offences connected with tax credits. *(a)* Criminal Investigation does not as a matter of course report cases resulting in prosecution for offences connected with tax credits to local Jobcentres. *(b)* It does however liaise with the Department for Work and Pensions if there are similar offences or benefits potentially affected.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there is provision for relaxation of the repayment rules for tax credit claimants who receive an overpayment as a single award and then enter a joint claim with their spouse/partner to allow repayment to be made over the period that repayments would have been taken from future payments on a single claim; and if he will make a statement. [128782]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC's approach to recovering overpayments is outlined in its Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?"

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casino Advisory Panel

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her officials had with the Casino Advisory Panel on the consistency of the arrangements of the Examinations in Public. [127652]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* None. The Casino Advisory Panel (CAP) is entirely independent of the Government. The arrangements for the Examinations in Public (EiPs) were entirely a matter for the panel, and it would not have been appropriate for the Government to intervene. Guidance notes for participants in the EiPs were sent to all the shortlisted authorities in August 2006. Professor Stephen Crow, the Chair of the CAP, who is experienced in chairing similar hearings as part of the planning process, chaired all seven Examinations in Public to ensure consistency.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Casino Advisory Panel took to ensure that bidding authorities for the regional casino licence were given equal periods of time to present their case at their respective Examinations in Public. [127654]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* Guidance notes for participants in the Examinations in Public (EiP) were sent to all participating authorities in August 2006. This made it clear that a day had been set aside for each EiP, and that each local authority would be permitted to make a brief opening statement summarising their proposal.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions the Casino Advisory Panel sought with members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee on the draft Gambling Bill. [127766]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* None. However, a number of members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee made representations to the Casino Advisory Panel during the course of its work. Two former members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee—the hon. Member for Barnsley, East and Mexborough (Jeff Ennis) and Lord Faulkner of Worcester—made representations in support of Blackpool's proposal.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what advice she gave to Professor Crowe and the Casino Advisory Panel on their decision not to allow hon. Members to speak at the Examinations in Public sessions in the areas bidding for a regional casino. [126541]

Tessa Jowell: The Government issued no guidance to the panel on the involvement of Members of Parliament in its work. The panel operated entirely independently of the Government and it was important that the panel was free to decide for itself who it consulted during the course of its work.

The Examinations in Public which the panel held into the shortlisted proposals for the regional casino were just one part of this consultation process, and the panel considered carefully all the information presented to it in developing its final recommendations. A number of hon. Members made written representations, or have otherwise associated themselves with proposals from their areas, these are reflected in Annex H (pp 147-159) of the panel's report. Copies of the panel's report are available in the House Libraries.

The panel issued guidance on the process for the Examinations in Public in advance of the hearings, which included the panel's criteria for selecting participants. The panel sought to select a range of participants representing a broad range of viewpoints, to ensure the broadest possible range of arguments would be presented and discussed during the hearings.

No hon. Members participated personally at any of the EiPs. However, the panel chair reported any representations that had been received from local hon. Members (whether for or against the proposal) at the start of each EiP. These representations were also reflected in the summaries of representations published on the panel's website

www.culture.gov.uk/cap.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what evidence on the merits of doorstep and destination casinos the Casino Advisory Panel were offered; and what use of such evidence they made in their considerations. [126742]

Tessa Jowell: The chairman of the panel explained in his foreword to the panel's report to me that in the course of its work the panel received a large amount of evidence, including on issues relating to the merits of doorstep and destination casinos.

The panel carefully considered all this evidence before finalising its recommendations to me.

The documents submitted to the panel are listed at Annex H of the report, which is available at www.culture.gov.uk/cap. The report is also available in the House Libraries.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions were held between her Department and the Casino Advisory Panel on the panel's refusal to allow hon. Members to give oral evidence at their Examinations in Public. [126743]

Tessa Jowell: None. The panel operated entirely independently of the Government and it was important that the panel was free to decide for itself who it consulted during the course of its work.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions were held between officials in her Department and members of the Casino Advisory Panel on the definition of social impact for the purposes of the panel's enquiry; and when such discussions took place; [127176]

(2) what discussions her officials held with members of the Casino Advisory Panel on how to assess willingness to license in respect of applicants in the regional casino category; [127177]

(3) what discussions took place between her officials and the Casino Advisory Panel to determine *(a)* what tests should be applied by the panel to ascertain willingness to licence in each local authority area for regional casino applications and *(b)* how such tests should be discussed consistently with each short-listed local authority at the examinations in public for the regional casino applications. [127622]

Tessa Jowell: The Casino Advisory Panel was set up to operate entirely independently of the Government. As a consequence, it would not have been appropriate for the Government to intervene in its work, or to interfere in the way in which the panel interpreted and applied its terms of reference.

The factors which the panel took into account when assessing each of the proposals before it against its remitted criteria are set out clearly in the panel report.

In the Government's assessment, the panel has taken its terms of reference seriously, it has applied them in a balanced and consistent way and it has tested its results back against the original terms of reference.

The Government are satisfied that it has arrived at robust recommendations as a result.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Casino Advisory Panel discussed the *(a)* definition and *(b)* merits of destination as opposed to doorstep casinos at its meeting on 24 May 2006. [127178]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The Casino Advisory Panel did not meet on 24 May 2006. The minutes of all the panel's meetings are available on its website at:

www.culture.gov.uk/cap.

Departments: Standards

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will include sustainability criteria in her Department's Public Service Agreement targets in the forthcoming comprehensive spending review. [127944]

Tessa Jowell: *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* DCMS is working with HM Treasury and other Departments to develop new PSA outcomes as part of the comprehensive spending review. Cross-governmental PSAs will be published as part of the CSR. I am aware of the importance of reflecting sustainability within the relevant priority areas.

Gaming Clubs: Greater Manchester

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings have taken place between *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department and (i) officers and (ii) councillors of Manchester city council since 30 January. [126764]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* There have been no meetings between officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport responsible for gambling policy, and officers and councillors of Manchester city council since 30 January 2007. At the request of the hon. Member for Manchester, Central (Tony Lloyd), I had a brief informal meeting with the leader and chief executive of Manchester city council on 5 February 2007.

Gaming Clubs: Licensing

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings took place between *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department and the Casino Advisory Panel immediately prior to the announcement of the short-list of casino licence candidates; and if she will publish the minutes of such meetings. [126765]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* No meetings took place between Ministers and officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Casino Advisory Panel immediately prior to the panel's announcement of the short list of casino licence candidates.

The panel made a written progress report to me, prior to the announcement of its short list. A copy of the report is available on the panel's website at www.culture.gov.uk/cap and in the House Libraries.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the potential for issues of competition to arise in cases of the siting of *(a)* regional, *(b)* large and *(c)* small casinos in the same town or city as a casino licensed under the Gaming Act 1968. [128419]

Tessa Jowell: A full competition assessment of the impact of the Gambling Act 2005 on the casino market was included in Annex A of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for the Act published on 21 April 2005. Copies of the RIA are available in the House Library.

Monuments: Agriculture

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of designated monuments that have been damaged by agricultural cultivation in the last 10 years. [127647]

Mr. Lammy: My Department does not hold such information. However, English Heritage is currently undertaking a programme of regional Scheduled Monuments at Risk studies which will help to quantify the number of Scheduled Monuments under continuous or periodic cultivation, and the proportion of these considered to be at risk of damage. The outcomes of this research will be published by English Heritage later this year.

Olympic Games

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budgeted cost is of advertising for posts for London 2012. [118745]

Tessa Jowell: From 1 April 2006 to 31 January 2007, the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) total actual advertising cost, including recruitment advertising, search and selection activity, and response handling, was £769,570. The ODA is a start-up organisation and has been recruiting permanent staff from its inception.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) is a privately funded commercial organisation and will be recruiting up to 2,500 posts between now and 2012. It is not possible at this stage to determine exactly the cost of recruitment as it will be spread over the next five years. LOCOG uses a number of resources to recruit including their website, newspaper adverts and recruitment specialists depending on the posts to be recruited.

Olympic Games: Football

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will seek discussions with *(a)* the FA, *(b)* the Scottish FA, *(c)* the Welsh FA and *(d)* the Northern Irish FA on providing a British football team for the 2012 Olympics. [128683]

Mr. Caborn: Any decision on whether a Great Britain team participates at the London 2012 Olympic Games is a matter for FIFA, the four home nations' Football Associations, and the organisers of the Olympic tournament.

The Secretary of State has discussed the issue of a Great Britain football team for the Olympics with the Football Association of England on a number of occasions.

The Government believe that a GB Olympic football team at a 2012 London Olympics could be very exciting for football fans and discussions between the various parties continue.

The Government also believe this should not affect the rights of the four home nations to compete separately in international football tournaments—an important part of our footballing tradition.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed in the Government Olympic Executive; what the total salary bill was in the last month for which figures are available; how many people are expected to be employed by the end of 2007; and what the projected annual salary budget is for each year until 2012. [126208]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* As of the 28 February 2007, 44 full-time equivalents, including those on contracts, work in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), with a total salary bill of £243,579 for this month.

By the end of 2007, the new director-general of the GOE will have been able, subject to affordability, to determine the appropriate staff numbers and associated salaries for the GOE for this and future years. The GOE works with Government Departments, agencies and other organisations to maximize the economic, social, health and environmental benefits the Games bring to the UK, and sponsors and supports the Olympic Delivery Authority, London 2012 Organising Committee, and Olympic lottery distributor.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will commission a cost benefit analysis of the Woolwich site for the standard shooting ranges for the 2012 Olympics compared with alternative sites which have existing facilities. [128861]

Mr. Caborn: A number of facilities were assessed during the bid stage to host the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich were agreed as the venue for the shooting events after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) gave feedback on the venue portfolio submitted as an applicant city in 2004. The Royal Artillery Barracks are, therefore, part of the host city contract agreement with the IOC. There are currently no plans to carry out any further assessments or analysis of other shooting venues in the UK.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make it her policy to move the site of the standard shooting ranges for the Olympics away from Woolwich. [128862]

Mr. Caborn: The Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich were agreed as the venue for the shooting events after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) gave feedback to the London bid organisers on the venue portfolio submitted as an applicant city in 2004. The Royal Artillery Barracks are, therefore, part of the host city contract agreement with the IOC. There are currently no plans to move the Olympic shooting events to an alternative venue.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children's Centres

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of children's centres provide childcare places. [127685]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* Sure Start children's centres in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas in England must provide integrated early learning and daycare as part of their core services. Based on information supplied by local authorities, 1,111 (97 per cent.) of the 1,137 designated Sure Start children's centres are offering this provision either on the same site as other children's centre services or at a site close by. Children's centres outside the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas may choose whether to provide integrated early learning and daycare depending on levels of local need.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of children's centres are based in schools. [127686]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* Local authorities are responsible for deciding the location of children's centres, and we do not routinely collect data on the numbers based on school sites. We estimate however that, based on an analysis conducted in 2006, around a third of the 1,137 centres currently designated fall into this category.

The proportion of children's centres based on school sites may increase as children's centres are rolled out across England and local authorities take full advantage of the opportunities for co-location and offering integrated services for children and parents from one place.

Children's Centres: Kent

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the criteria are for establishing children's centres in Kent; [127954]

(2) which wards in Kent *(a)* have children's centres and *(b)* he expects to have children's centres by 2010. [128192]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* We have issued planning guidance for all local authorities which sets out the criteria for the location of children's centres. We have asked them to ensure that these locations enable all children under five in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas of England to have access to integrated services by March 2008. These areas are defined by Super Output Areas as developed by the Office for National Statistics. The exact location within these areas is determined by local authorities in consultation with local partners. When appropriate plans have been made to serve the most disadvantaged areas with children's centre services, the local authority has the flexibility to decide where to locate further centres according to the resources available.

There are currently 18 designated Sure Start children's centres in Kent and a further 52 planned by March 2008. By 2010 every ward in Kent will be served by a children's centre as part of the Government's commitment to offer Sure Start integrated services to every community in England. A breakdown of the designated and agreed Kent children's centres by ward is as follows:

Name of children's centre	*Name of ward*
(a) Current designated children's centres	
Ray Allen	Stanhope; Washford; Park Farm North
Willows	Beaver; Victoria; Norman
Oakfield	Princes; Town
Temple Hill	Joyce Green; Littlebrook
Aylesham	Aylesham; Little Stour and Ashstone
Buckland	Buckland; Whitfield
St. Radigunds	St. Radigunds; River
Tower Hamlets	Tower Hamlets, Castle
Riverside Canterbury	Westcourt (parts of); Riverside (parts of); Central (parts of)
Riverside	Northgate (parts of)
The Meadow	Park Wood; Shepway South
Hawkinge	North Down East; Elham and Stelling Minnis; North Down West (parts of)
The Village	Folkestone East; Folkestone Foord; Park ward (parts of)
Hythe	Folkestone Sandgate; Hythe West; Hythe Central; Hythe East
Milton Court	Milton Regis; Kemsley
Seashells	Sheerness East; Sheerness West
Millmead	Dane Valley
Newlands	Sir Moses Montiefiore; Easteliffe
(b) Children's centres agreed up to March 2008	
Sherwood	Sherwood; St. James
Cranbrook	Benenden and Crook; Frittenden and Sissinghurst; Hawkhurst and Sandhurst
East Stour	South Willesborough; Aylesford Green; Highfield; North Willesborough
Phoenix	Bybrook; Bockhanger; Stour; Little Burton Farm; Kennington
Briary	Greenhill and Eddington; Herne and Broomfield
Hersden	Marshside; Sturry North; Little Stour; Sturry South
Joy Lane	Seasalter; Harbour; Gorrell (parts of)
Brent	Newtown; Brent (parts of)
Darenth	Bean and Darenth; Sutton-at-hone and Hawley
Swanscombe	Swanscombe; Longfield, New Barn and Southfleet
Knockhall	Greenhithe; Stone (part of); Castle
Eythorne Elvington	Eythorne and Shepherdswell; Eastry; Lydden and Temple Ewell
Aycliffe	Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory; Town and Pier; Capel le Ferne
Lawn and The Hive/Wallis Park	Northfleet North
Chantry	Pelham (parts of)
King Farm	Whitehill; Westcourt (parts of); Woodlands (parts of); Singlewell
Shears Green	Coldharbour; Northfleet South
Southborough	High Street; East ward (parts of); North ward (parts of)
Greenfields	South; Shepway North
White Oak/The Willows	Swanley White Oak; Swanley St. Mary's; Hextable
Edenbridge	Edenbridge North and East; Cowden and Hever; Edenbridge South and West
FEYC	Park ward (parts of); Harbour; Harvey Central; Harvey West
Movehall	Charlton; Morehall
Dymchurch	Dymchurch and St. Mary's Bay; Romney Marsh; Lympne and Stanford; Tolesford; North Downs West (parts of)
St. Nicholas/Lydd	New Romney Town; New Romney Coastal; Lydd
Murston	Murston; St. Michael's; Roman

Name of children's centre	Name of ward
Grove Park	Grove (parts of); Borden; Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch
Homewood	Chalkwell; Grove (parts of); Woodstock
St. Mary of Charity	Abbey; Davington Priory; Watling (parts of)
Byrling Wood	Watling (part of); St Anne's; Teynham and Lynsted; East Downs
East Sheppey/Leysdown and Warden	Leysdown and Warden; Sheppey Central (parts of)
Minster-in-Sheppey	Minster Cliffs; Sheppey Central (parts of)
Margate	Westbrook; Margate Central; Salmestone
Birchington	Birchington South; Birchington North; Thanet Villages
Newington	Newington; Northwood
Longmead	Tranch; Cage Green; Castle; Higham
St. Stephens	Medway; Vauxhall; Judd
Snodland	Snodland East; Snodland West; Larkfield North
St. James the Great	East Malling; Ditton; Aylesford
Callis Grange	Beacon Road; Kingsgate; Bradstow; St. Peter's

Day Care: Disabled

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding his Department makes available to assist parents with the cost of child care for children with physical disabilities. [127933]

Beverley Hughes: Parents with disabled children can receive support through the working tax credit (which includes elements relating to disability and severe disability), child tax credit, disability living allowance and carer's allowance. They can also apply for direct payments from their local authority, which are cash payments in lieu of social care services enabling those receiving them to arrange their own services.

In addition, the Department for Education and Skills provides funding to local authorities through the general Sure Start grant to increase the sustainability and diversity of their local child care market, in support of the new duty in the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient child care provision. This funding can be used to provide support for child care places where affordability is an issue for parents, and can also be used to provide training, enable early education and child care settings to make adaptations to premises and equipment, provide additional staff, and support multi-agency working through the early support programme.

Nursery Schools: Westminster

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* three and *(b)* four-year-olds are attending (i) nursery schools and (ii) classes in Westminster; and how many were attending in 1997. [126446]

Beverley Hughes: The requested information is given in the table.

Maintained nursery and primary schools: number (headcount) of pupils aged 3 and 4[1] Position in January each year: 1997 and 2006 Westminster local authority area

	Maintained nursery schools		Maintained primary schools			
	Pupils across all classes		Pupils in designated nursery classes		Pupils across all classes[2]	
	Aged 3[3]	Aged 4[4]	Aged 3[3]	Aged 4[4]	Aged 3[3]	Aged 4[4]
1997	128	64	599	498	599	1,031
2006	187	48	794	342	796	1,308

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Includes pupils in designated nursery classes.
[3] Excludes rising fours. Includes pupils aged less than three.
[4] Excludes rising fives.
Source:
School Census

Parents: Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of pupils whose parents were claiming incapacity benefit achieved *(a)* more than five A* to C passes including English and mathematics, *(b)* more than five A* to C passes, *(c)* more than five A* to G passes and *(d)* no passes at Key Stage 4 in (i) the Birkenhead constituency, (ii) the Wirral local education authority and (iii) England in 2006. [127767]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* Data on whether pupils' parents claim incapacity benefit is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Attendance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many parents received custodial sentences for failing to make their children attend school in each of the last three years. [127531]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* Home Office data, from the court proceedings database, show the number of defendants sentenced to immediate custody for offences under section 444 of the Education Act 1996 is as follows: 20 in 2005; 22 in 2004; and, seven in 2003. Data for 2006 are not available at this time.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether under the school admissions code of practice local authorities can give precedence in the waiting list to pupils who have not been allocated a place at a ranked school over those who have been allocated a place at one of their ranked schools. [128837]

Jim Knight: Where a school maintains a waiting list, a child's position on that list can be determined only by how well he or she meets the school's published oversubscription criteria compared to others on the list. Any other information, such as other parental preferences, may not be taken in to account. The new school admissions code also states that a child cannot be given priority on a waiting list based on the date that his or her application was received or his or her name was added to the list.

The only children who may be given precedence over those on a waiting list are those who are the subject of a direction by the local authority to admit or those admitted in accordance with an in-year fair access protocol.

Volunteering: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the steps being taken to meet the recommendations of the Russell Commission on Youth Volunteering. [128266]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

Considerable progress has been made over the past year since the launch of the Russell Commission Implementation Body, v, which has created over 80,000 volunteering opportunities and attracted pledges of over £20 million of match funding for the private sector in addition to the up to £100 million available from Government.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued by courts in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead constituency in each quarter since the penalty was introduced; and what percentage of these were issued where the claimant was aged (i) 10 to 14 years, (ii) 15 to 19 years, (iii) 20 to 24 years, (iv) 25 to 29 years and (v) 30 years and over. [121181]

Mr. McNulty: Available information for Hertfordshire criminal justice system area is in the table, but ASBO data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in the Hertfordshire criminal justice system area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by age group and by quarter, 1 June 2000[1] to 31 December 2005 (latest available)

		Age						
Period		*10-14*	*15-19*	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30 and over*	*Not known*	*Total*
October to December 2000	Number	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Percentage	—	100	—	—	—	—	100
January to March 2001	Number	—	2	2	—	—	—	4
	Percentage	—	50	50	—	—	—	100
April to June 2001	Number	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Percentage	—	100	—	—	—	—	100
July to September 2001	Number	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
	Percentage	—	100	—	—	—	—	100
October to December 2001	Number	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Percentage	100	—	—	—	—	—	100
January to March 2002	Number	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Percentage	—	100	—	—	—	—	100
April to June 2002	Number	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Percentage	—	100	—	—	—	—	100
July to September 2002	Number	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Percentage	50	50	—	—	—	—	100
October to December 2002	Number	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
	Percentage	—	100	—	—	—	—	100
January to March 2003	Number	—	5	—	—	[illegible]	—	7
	Percentage	—	71	—	—	[illegible]	—	100
April to June 2003	Number	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	Percentage	—	—	100	—	—	—	100
July to September 2003	Number	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Percentage	—	100	—	—	—	—	100
October to December 2003	Number	—	7	1	—	—	—	8
	Percentage	—	88	12	—	—	—	100
January to March 2004	Number	2	7	1	1	2	—	13
	Percentage	15	54	8	8	15	—	100
April to June 2004	Number	—	8	1	1	1	—	11
	Percentage	—	73	9	9	9	—	100
July to September 2004	Number	1	3	2	2	4	—	12
	Percentage	8	25	17	17	33	—	100
October to December 2004	Number	—	2	—	1	1	—	4
	Percentage	—	50	—	25	25	—	100
January to March 2005	Number	2	5	6	1	4	3	21
	Percentage	10	24	29	5	19	14	100
April to June 2005	Number	1	3	6	—	7	—	17

The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in the Hertfordshire criminal justice system area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by age group and by quarter, 1 June 2000[1] to 31 December 2005 (latest available)

Period		Age 10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Not known	Total
	Percentage	6	18	35	—	41	—	100
July to September 2005	Number	2	12	2	1	2	1	20
	Percentage	10	60	10	5	10	5	100
October to December 2005	Number	—	5	—	1	6	2	14
	Percentage	—	36	—	7	43	14	100
Total		11	69	22	8	29	6	145
Percentage		8	48	15	6	20	4	100

[1] From commencement 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa). During this period one ASBO was issued in the Hertfordshire pfa.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Smuggling

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the performance of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in detecting drugs trafficking since 1 April 2006; and if he will make a statement. [127588]

Mr. Coaker: As published in the 2006-07 Annual Plan, the SOCA Board determined that SOCA should devote 40 per cent. of its effort against the threat posed by drugs trafficking.

As required by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, SOCA will issue an annual report as soon as possible after the end of the financial year 2006-07. This report will include an assessment of the extent to which the annual plan for that year has been carried out.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantities of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy and *(d)* cannabis were seized as a result of HM Revenue and Customs operations in each of the last three years. [127589]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Quantities of drugs seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs are published in the Annual Report of HM Revenue and Customs. The last three years' seizures by weight, as published in those reports, are set out in the following table:

	2003-04	2004-05	*kilograms* 2005-06
Heroin	1,626	1,613	1,057
Cocaine	20,727	8,606	5,798
Ecstasy	1,245	740	468
Cannabis	57,617	57,504	41,611

Firearms

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1928W, on firearms, if he will place in the Library the advice provided by the Forensic Science Service. [127427]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Advice provided by the Forensic Science Service relating to firearms surrendered during the amnesty in 2003 was on a case-by-case basis direct to the police force concerned.

Holloway Prison

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 108W, on Holloway prison, which games and videos are available for use. [126606]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisoners at Holloway have access to a range of films and DVDs. The prison has a central library of videos and DVDs which are vetted for suitability by the prison librarian. From this small library a number of films are provided to the first night centre for use by new prisoners.

Additionally, women on the enhanced level of the incentives and earned privileges scheme are entitled to receive up to 10 DVDs and six computer games through the post. These games and DVDs must be originals, must arrive at the prison sealed, and are vetted for suitability by prisoner reception staff. Unsuitable games and DVDs are placed in the prisoner's stored property and she is advised in writing that the game or DVD will not be issued as it has been deemed unsuitable. The prisoner may appeal this decision to the Governor should she disagree.

Identity Cards

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most recent timetable is for introducing compulsory identity cards. [125642]

Joan Ryan: We will start issuing biometric immigration documents from 2008 and identity cards to British citizens from 2009. It is the Government's policy that ID cards should eventually be compulsory for everyone resident in the United Kingdom who is aged 16 or over.

Under the Identity Cards Act 2006 registration on the National Identity Register and the issue of ID cards will be linked to applications for British passports and biometric immigration documents for foreign nationals, subject to approval by Parliament of

a designation order under section 4 of the Identity Cards Act. As a result, ID cards will be issued to a large proportion of the resident population as they apply for or renew one of these documents. Passport applicants may opt out of obtaining an ID card before 1 January 2010.

The UK Borders Bill currently before Parliament provides powers to require specified categories of foreign nationals to apply for a biometric immigration document. At some time in the future, further primary legislation will be introduced to provide the powers to require the remainder of the population to obtain an ID card and so to make ID cards compulsory.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* personal data and *(b)* biometric data he plans identity cards will hold. [125720]

Joan Ryan: It is intended that the identity card for British citizens will be valid as a travel document within the European economic area. As a result, like the passport, it will need to meet International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requirements regarding information to be recorded on travel documents.

Hence, the biographical information to be recorded on the identity card will closely match that currently recorded on the personal details page of the passport.

With regard to biometric information, it is intended that the biometrics to be recorded on the identity card will be a subset of those to be recorded on the National Identity Register and will be in line with international requirements. This biometric information would be recorded securely on the card's chip and protected by encryption.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to bring forward legislation to make identity cards compulsory. [125947]

Joan Ryan: We will start issuing biometric immigration documents from 2008 and identity cards to British citizens from 2009. It is the Government's policy that ID cards should eventually be compulsory for everyone resident in the United Kingdom who is aged 16 or over.

Under the Identity Cards Act 2006 registration on the National Identity Register and the issued ID cards will be linked to applications for British passports and biometric immigration documents for foreign nationals, subject to approval by Parliament of a designation order under section four of the Identity Cards Act. As a result ID cards will be issued to a large proportion of the resident population as they apply for or renew one of these documents. Passport applicants may opt out of obtaining an ID card before 1 January 2010.

The UK Borders Bill currently before Parliament provides powers to require specified categories of foreign nationals to apply for a biometric immigration document. At some time in the future, further primary legislation will be introduced to provide the powers to require the remainder of the population to obtain an ID card and so to make ID cards compulsory.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 519W, on identity cards, what estimate he has made of the number of officials in the Identity and Passport Service who will administer the civil penalty scheme. [126001]

Joan Ryan: At present, the number of officials planned to work on the administration of the civil penalty scheme has not been finalised.

National Identity Register

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether data held on the National Identity Register will be cross-checked with the electoral register. [126593]

Joan Ryan: The Identity and Passport Service uses the services of a credit reference agency to verify identity information provided with passport applications and plans to build on these services when the National Identity Register is introduced. One of the sources of data used by the credit reference agency is the electoral register.

The Government set out the role of the National Identity Register and the Identity Cards Scheme in relation to electoral registration and voting in its evidence to the House of Commons Constitutional Affairs and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions Committees published by the Committees on 16 March 2005.

National Identity Register: Personal Records

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which data fields he plans to be held on each individual entered in the National Identity Register; [125944]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total number of data fields to be held on each individual entered in the National Identity Register; [125945]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of individual data entries to be held on the National Identity Register in each of the first five years of operation. [125946]

Joan Ryan: The information that can be held on the National Identity Register is strictly limited in the Identity Cards Act 2006 and is outlined under section 3 and schedule 1 of that Act.

Details of the IT architecture which will support the recording of that information on the register will be dependent on the design that is agreed with any future suppliers and other parties involved in developing the technical systems that host it.

Thus, until procurement processes are completed and further work is conducted, the number of data fields recording National Identity Register information will not be finalised.

Offensive Weapons

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often the Round Table on guns, knives and gangs has met in the last two years; on what dates it met; and if he will make a statement. [127418]

Mr. Cooker *[holding answer 14 March 2007]*: Since December 2004, the Round Table on guns, knives and gangs has met four times: on 15 December 2004, 7 March 2006, 7 February 2007 and 6 March 2007.

Passports

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1515W, on passports, which fictional passports have been issued. [127558]

John Reid: Available IPS records confirm that the following fictional passports have been issued:

Character	*Production*	*Date*
Thomas Sweeney	Brookside	June 2000
Columbus Bear	When You Wish Upon a Star	July 2000
Diane Begley	Blue Murder	February 2004
James Bond	Casino Royale	February 2006

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1514W, on passports, whether there is a separate service level agreement for the Passport Validation Service. [127883]

John Reid: As stated on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1514W, updated key performance indicators for the Identity and Passport Service will be published later in the spring. A number of these will specifically relate to the Passport Validation Service.

The Passport Validation Service also enters into contractual agreements with user organisations which specify the terms under which the Passport Validation Service is delivered to them.

Police Custody

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were held in police cells during the recent activation of Operation Safeguard; and how many were *(a)* remand prisoners, *(b)* male remand prisoners, *(c)* prisoners given custodial sentences and *(d)* male prisoners given custodial sentences. [124830]

John Reid: Between 12 October and 22 December 2006 Operation Safeguard was used on 4,617 occasions. This does not correspond precisely to the number of prisoners: one occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell.

A breakdown of numbers of remand prisoners and prisoners given custodial sentences held in police cells is not held centrally. No women prisoners have been held in police cells.

Police Custody: Manpower

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether recommendations were made by his Department to *(a)* any chief constable and *(b)* ACPO on prisoner-to-police officer ratio during the recent activation of Operation Safeguard. [124721]

John Reid: The staffing levels in custody suites being used under Operation Safeguard are determined by individual chief constables based on operational knowledge and experience. Each site is fully risk assessed and resourced accordingly.

Police: Cadets

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department has provided to police authorities in respect of police cadets in the latest period for which figures are available. [128851]

Mr. McNulty: Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that provides an assessment of the relative need of each police force in England and Wales.

Funding for police cadets is not separately identified. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in England and Wales are suspended by police authorities; and what the total value is of their annual salaries. [128850]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally by the Home Office and is a matter for each force.

Police: Discrimination

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of *(a)* racism, *(b)* gender discrimination and *(c)* discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation were made by (i) police officers, (ii) police community support officers and (iii) special constables against the police in each of the last five years. [121849]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold a central record of the number of complaints of racism, gender discrimination and discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation made by police officers, police community support officers and special constables against the police. These are matters for the grievance procedure of each force.

Police: ICT

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many information communication technology systems are being used by police forces in England and Wales, broken down by force. [127309]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 March 2007]*: The day-to-day operational management of a force and therefore the systems used to support it are the responsibility of the force chief constable and their police authority.

Police: Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has given to police chief constables on the *(a)* design, *(b)* maintenance and *(c)* availability of information held on their websites. [127424]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* These decisions are for chief constables who are responsible for the day-to-day operational management of their force.

Police: Sirens

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance is given to police car drivers on the use of their sirens at night-time; and whether the guidance *(a)* is kept under review and *(b)* has been amended in the past two years; [128398]

(2) what monitoring is undertaken of the adherence of police car drivers to guidance on the use of their sirens at night-time. [128436]

Mr. McNulty: Regulation 37 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 restricts the fitting of sirens and other devices to specific emergency vehicles. Regulation 99 allows use of a siren only to indicate to other road users the urgency of the purposes for which a vehicle is being used, or to warn other road users of the presence of the vehicle on the road.

Subject to compliance with construction and use regulations, the use of sirens is according to police discretion. It is for individual chief officers to decide on whether to issue local guidance and on monitoring of adherence to such guidance.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison officers were employed *(a)* in total and *(b)* full-time (i) as at 31 March in each year since 1997 and (ii) on 31 January 2007. [127082]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of officer grade staff employed within the public sector Prison Service and the contracted estate each year since 1997 is contained in the following table.

Number of officer grade staff employed within the public sector Prison Service and the contracted estate each year since 1997

Date	Total	Full-time equivalent
31 March 1997	23,058	—
31 March 1998	23,002	—
31 March 1999	24,113	—
31 March 2000	24,348	24,272
31 March 2001	24,023	23,913
31 March 2002	23,681	23,505
31 March 2003	24,527	24,272
31 March 2004	25,461	25,168
31 March 2005	26,246	25,870
31 March 2006	26,747	26,333
31 January 2007	26,941	26,475

Notes:
1. Figures include both publicly and privately managed establishments.
2. Full-time equivalent figures are not available prior to 2000.
3. Figures relate to prison officers, senior officers and principal officers within the public sector Prison Service and prison custody officers within contacted prisons.
4. Officers employed within public sector Prison Service headquarters are included.
5. Private contractors have not been able to supply information for; Ashfield and Doncaster prior to 2002, Dovegate in 2004, 2002 and 2001, Forest Bank, Altcourse, Rye Hill and Wolds prior to 2004 and Lowdham Grange in 2005, 2004 and prior to 2002.

Prisoners

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in the prison population was in each year since 1997. [127083]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The numbers of prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales in each year since 1997 with the percentage annual increase can be seen in the table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prison population in England and Wales 1997-2005, with percentage annual (as at 30 June each year)

	Total prison population	Percentage increase since previous year
1997	61,467	—
1998	65,727	6.90
1999	64,529	-1.80
2000	65,194	1.00
2001	66,403	1.90
2002	71,218	7.30
2003	73,657	3.40
2004	74,488	1.10
2005	76,190	2.30
2006	77,982	2.40

Source:
Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, table 8.1 at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section8.xls

Prisoners: Civil Proceedings

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department collects about civil claims made by *(a)* current and *(b)* former prisoners against the prison service. [127878]

John Reid: The Prison Service currently collates sufficient information to monitor the progress of civil claims brought against it. The majority of that information is legally privileged and cannot be disclosed.

Prisoners: Elderly

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners are aged (i) 60 to 64 and (ii) over 65 years. [126418]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The figures requested in the question for all prison

establishments in England and Wales as at the end of January 2007 are in the following table:

Age band	Male	Female	Total
60-64	1,011	33	1,044
65 and over	1,020	16	1,036

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid from public funds to prison imams in each year since 2001. [127952]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Imams are employed both on a full-time and sessional basis. Payments being made are from both the overall chaplaincy budget and sessional budgets held by Governors at establishments. Therefore the information requested is not held centrally or is readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which prisons *(a)* employed and *(b)* used an imam in each year since 2001. [127953]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The prisons recorded as having a directly employed Muslim chaplain on 31 March each year since 2002 are shown in the following list. All establishments (unless the post is vacant) have one or more Muslim chaplain either employed or fee paid. Muslim chaplains have been coming in to prisons for many years on a fee paid basis. Central records are not maintained of how often these services are used.

Establishments directly employing Muslim chaplains by date

31 March 2002
- Altcourse
- Brixton
- Doncaster
- Dovegate
- Feltham
- Forest Bank
- Lowdham Grange
- Rye Hill
- Wolds

31 March 2003
- Altcourse
- Brixton
- Buckley Hall
- Channings Wood[1]
- Doncaster
- Dovegate
- Feltham
- Forest Bank
- Lowdham Grange
- Portland[1]
- Rye Hill
- The Verne[1]
- Wandsworth
- Wolds

31 March 2004
- Altcourse
- Bedford
- Belmarsh
- Birmingham
- Bronzefield
- Buckley Hall
- Channings Wood[1]
- Doncaster
- Dovegate
- Dover
- Feltham
- Forest Bank
- Lowdham Grange
- Manchester
- Pentonville
- Portland[1]
- Risley
- Rye Hill
- The Mount
- The Verne[1]
- Wandsworth
- Whitemoor
- Wolds

31 March 2005
- Altcourse
- Bedford
- Belmarsh
- Birmingham
- Blakenhurst
- Bronzefield
- Buckley Hall
- Bullingdon
- Channings Wood[1]
- Coldingley
- Doncaster
- Dovegate
- Dover
- Featherstone
- Feltham
- Forest Bank
- Highpoint
- Lowdham Grange
- Manchester
- Pentonville
- Peterborough
- Portland[1]
- Reading
- Risley
- Rye Hill
- Swaleside
- Swinfen Hall
- The Mount
- The Verne[1]
- Wandsworth
- Wolds
- Woodhill

31 March 2006
- Altcourse
- Bedford
- Belmarsh
- Birmingham

Blakenhurst
Brixton
Bronzefield
Buckley Hall
Bullingdon
Channings Wood[1]
Coldingley
Doncaster
Dovegate
Dover
Elmley[1]
Featherstone
Feltham
Forest Bank
Frankland
Highpoint
Leicester
Lincoln
Lowdham Grange
Manchester
Moorland
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland[1]
Reading
Risley
Rye Hill
Standford Hill[1]
Swaleside
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
The Verne[1]
Whitemoor
Wolds
Woodhill

28 February 2007

Altcourse
Aylesbury
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Brixton
Bronzefield
Buckley Hall
Bullingdon
Cardiff
Channings Wood[1]
Coldingley
Doncaster
Dovegate
Dover
Elmley[1]
Featherstone
Feltham
Forest Bank
Frankland
Full Sutton
Highpoint
Hindley
Leicester
Lincoln
Lindholme
Liverpool
Lowdham Grange
Manchester
Moorland
Nottingham
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland[1]
Reading
Risley
Rye Hill
Standford Hill[1]
Swaleside
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
The Verne[1]
Thorn Cross
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Whitemoor
Wolds
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs

[1] Muslim chaplain covers more than one establishment.

Public Order Offences

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to extend the use of penalty notices for disorder. [128214]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are reviewing the list of offences for which a penalty notice for disorder may be issued. No decision has yet been made on whether and, if so, how to extend the scheme.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Surveys

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to publish the results of the poll commissioned by the board of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency of staff views. [127590]

Mr. Coaker: No. The results of the staff survey are being discussed and will then be circulated internally to SOCA staff.

SOCA values the staff survey as an opportunity to receive honest views on corporate issues. It is completed on the basis that results will not be made public. Publication could undermine the confidence necessary for it to be an effective tool for the organisation, which is still at an early stage of its development.

Theft: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were cautioned for shoplifting in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [127101]

Mr. McNulty: The number of offenders cautioned for stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting) in the Lancashire police force area from 2001 to 2005 is shown in the table.

Number of offenders cautioned for stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting) in the Lancashire police force area, 2001 to 2005[1,2]

Statute	Offence	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Theft Act 1968 Sec 1.	Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)	1,143	986	975	1,152	801

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Young Offenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug rehabilitation requirement orders were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by young offenders aged 18 years and under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [126111]

Mr. Coaker: Drug rehabilitation requirements were introduced under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, which came into effect on 4 April 2005. They can be made under community orders or suspended sentence orders and apply only to offenders aged 18 and over. Between April and December 2005, 140 drug rehabilitation requirements were made by the courts for offenders aged 18 who commenced probation service supervision. In this same period some 30 drug rehabilitation requirements were terminated early by 18-year-olds either for failure to comply with requirements or for further offence convictions. The equivalent figures for the period January to September 2006 were 160 for both commencements and terminations[1].

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and the totals have been rounded.

[1] The 160 early terminations in 2006 include drug rehabilitation requirements commencing in both 2005 and 2006.

Young Offenders: Community Service Orders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community rehabilitation orders were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by young offenders aged 18 years or under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [127453]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For sentencing purposes juveniles are defined as being aged 17 and under. Eighteen-year-olds are treated as adults. This response therefore is confined to young offenders aged 10-17 in the interest of clarity.

Statistics on sentencing of young offenders (persons aged 10-17) are published in "Sentencing Statistics 2005" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin No. 03/07), a copy of which is in the Library.

Table 3.7 on page 70 includes numbers of community rehabilitation orders made.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

The bulletin referred to is also available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0307.pdf

Quality checks have shown that breach data are unsuitable for publication. Statistics on breaches can therefore only be published when significant improvements have been made to the submissions of these data to the Home Office.

Table 3.7: Persons sentenced to community sentences by age group, sex and type of sentence, 1995-2005—England and Wales

Number of persons

	Community sentences						
	Community rehabilitation order[1]	*Supervision order*	*Community punishment order*[1]	*Attendance centre order*	*Community punishment and rehabilitation order*[1]	*Curfew order*	*Reparation order*
Males							
Aged 10-17							
1995	1,900	8,929	3,261	6,212	905	*	*
1996	2,181	9,536	3,503	6,162	1,254	13	*
1997	2,331	9,669	3,762	6,313	1,510	34	*
1998	2,621	10,573	3,894	6,731	1,677	144	*
1999	2,674	10,734	4,340	7,250	1,780	298	*
2000	2,044	9,711	4,495	5,828	1,819	393	3,382
2001	2,075	9,330	4,030	4,787	1,658	1,189	6,746
2002	1,981	8,910	3,156	3,265	1,556	2,184	4,256
2003	1,902	8,240	2,642	2,560	1,402	2,651	2,662
2004	1,817	8,391	2,466	2,561	1,226	3,624	2,633
2005	1,564	8,719	2,305	2,555	1,154	3,622	2,710
Aged 18-20							
1995	8,142	*	8,779	808	3,045	*	*
1996	7,715	*	8,363	799	3,497	32	*
1997	7,757	*	8,299	742	3,847	69	*
1998	8,220	*	9,258	726	4,345	181	*
1999	8,420	*	9,674	766	4,387	310	*
2000	8,107	*	9,725	631	4,061	548	*
2001	8,587	*	9,840	577	3,050	656	*

Table 3.7: Persons sentenced to community sentences by age group, sex and type of sentence, 1995-2005—England and Wales

Number of persons

	Community sentences						
	Community rehabilitation order[1]	*Supervision order*	*Community punishment order*[1]	*Attendance centre order*	*Community punishment and rehabilitation order*[1]	*Curfew order*	*Reparation order*
2002	8,569	*	9,854	459	3,252	913	*
2003	7,851	*	9,913	506	3,297	1,447	*
2004	6,943	*	10,280	614	3,749	2,204	*
2005	3,699	*	6,170	461	2,335	1,516	*
Aged 21 and over							
1995	30,731	*	32,720	*	9,447	*	*
1996	31,470	*	30,346	*	11,064	108	*
1997	33,452	*	30,864	*	12,274	287	*
1998	35,514	*	30,856	*	13,072	524	*
1999	35,044	*	30,535	*	12,466	786	*
2000	34,120	*	30,297	*	11,420	1,384	*
2001	36,263	*	30,162	*	8,491	1,622	*
2002	40,259	*	32,069	*	9,179	2,557	*
2003	41,501	*	32,238	*	9,113	4,387	*
2004	40,554	*	34,831	*	9,665	7,431	*
2005	22,009	*	21,651	*	6,333	5,283	*
All ages							
1995	40,773	8,929	44,760	7,020	13,397	*	*
1996	41,366	9,536	42,214	6,961	15,815	153	*
1997	43,540	9,669	42,925	7,055	17,631	390	*
1998	46,355	10,573	44,008	7,457	19,094	849	*
1999	46,138	10,734	44,549	8,016	18,633	1,394	*
2000	44,271	9,711	44,517	6,459	17,300	2,325	3,382
2001	46,925	9,330	44,052	5,364	13,199	3,467	6,746
2002	50,809	8,910	45,079	3,724	13,987	5,654	4,256
2003	51,254	8,240	44,793	3,066	13,812	8,485	2,662
2004	49,314	8,391	47,577	3,175	14,640	13,259	2,633
2005	27,272	8,719	30,126	3,016	9,822	10,421	2,710
Females							
Aged 10-17							
1995	255	1,214	167	447	48	*	*
1996	331	1,380	216	469	58	—	*
1997	395	1,520	257	549	127	3	*
1998	463	1,861	255	573	138	11	*
1999	506	1,945	330	623	121	22	*
2000	397	1,845	335	552	162	47	602
2001	411	1,753	263	418	130	105	1,229
2002	344	1,592	175	286	107	169	748
2003	329	1,630	128	197	107	289	449
2004	304	1,728	120	220	90	426	454
2005	272	1,881	140	252	80	519	567
Aged 18-20							
1995	1,368	*	528	18	200	*	*
1996	1,505	*	553	31	254	1	*
1997	1,695	*	639	36	308	3	*
1998	1,956	*	697	35	406	15	*
1999	2,075	*	824	40	402	36	*
2000	2,089	*	843	30	374	52	*
2001	1,962	*	853	42	239	63	*
2002	1,969	*	823	21	264	88	*
2003	1,597	*	867	20	241	143	*
2004	1,528	*	1,007	37	258	222	*
2005	798	*	662	37	187	163	*
Aged 21 and over							
1995	7,002	*	2,882	*	914	*	*
1996	7,679	*	2,912	*	1,173	10	*
1997	8,462	*	3,302	*	1,394	30	*
1998	9,387	*	3,606	*	1,545	104	*
1999	9,649	*	3,894	*	1,577	125	*
2000	9,702	*	4,288	*	1,405	173	*
2001	9,649	*	4,596	*	1,094	228	*
2002	10,659	*	4,714	*	1,126	355	*
2003	10,022	*	4,594	*	999	682	*
2004	9,515	*	5,182	*	984	1,235	*

Table 3.7: Persons sentenced to community sentences by age group, sex and type of sentence, 1995-2005—England and Wales

Number of persons

	Community sentences						
	Community rehabilitation order[1]	*Supervision order*	*Community punishment order*[2]	*Attendance centre order*	*Community punishment and rehabilitation order*[3]	*Curfew order*	*Reparation order*
2005	5,241	*	3,880	*	723	1,026	*
All ages							
1995	8,625	1,214	3,577	465	1,162	*	*
1996	9,535	1,380	3,681	500	1,485	11	*
1997	10,552	1,590	4,198	585	1,829	36	*
1998	11,806	1,861	4,558	608	2,089	130	*
1999	12,230	1,943	5,048	663	2,100	183	*
2000	12,188	1,845	5,466	582	1,941	272	602
2001	12,022	1,753	5,712	460	1,463	396	1,229
2002	12,972	1,592	5,712	307	1,497	612	749
2003	11,948	1,630	5,589	217	1,347	1,114	449
2004	11,347	1,728	6,309	257	1,332	1,883	454
2005	6,311	1,881	4,682	289	990	1,708	507
All persons							
Aged 10-17							
1995	2,155	10,143	3,428	6,659	953	*	*
1996	2,532	10,916	3,719	6,631	1,312	13	*
1997	2,726	11,249	4,019	6,862	1,637	37	*
1998	3,084	12,434	4,149	7,304	1,815	155	*
1999	3,180	12,679	4,670	7,873	1,901	320	*
2000	2,441	11,556	4,830	6,380	1,981	440	3,984
2001	2,486	11,083	4,313	5,205	1,788	1,294	7,975
2002	2,325	10,502	3,331	3,551	1,663	2,353	5,004
2003	2,231	9,870	2,770	2,757	1,509	2,940	3,111
2004	2,121	10,119	2,586	2,781	1,316	4,050	3,087
2005	1,836	10,600	2,445	2,807	1,234	4,141	3,217
Aged 18-20							
1995	9,510	*	9,307	826	3,245	*	*
1996	9,220	*	8,918	830	3,751	33	*
1997	9,452	*	8,938	778	4,155	72	*
1998	10,176	*	9,955	761	4,751	196	*
1999	10,495	*	10,498	806	4,789	346	*
2000	10,196	*	10,568	661	4,435	600	*
2001	10,549	*	10,693	619	3,289	719	*
2002	10,538	*	10,677	480	3,516	1,001	*
2003	9,448	*	10,780	526	3,538	1,590	*
2004	8,471	*	11,287	651	4,007	2,426	*
2005	4,497	*	6,832	498	2,522	1,679	*
Aged 21 and over							
1995	37,713	*	35,602	*	10,361	*	*
1996	39,149	*	33,258	*	12,237	118	*
1997	41,514	*	34,166	*	13,668	317	*
1998	44,901	*	34,462	*	14,617	628	*
1999	44,693	*	34,429	*	14,043	911	*
2000	43,822	*	34,585	*	12,825	1,557	*
2001	45,912	*	34,758	*	9,585	1,850	*
2002	50,918	*	36,783	*	10,305	2,912	*
2003	51,523	*	36,832	*	10,112	5,069	*
2004	50,069	*	40,013	*	10,649	8,666	*
2005	27,250	*	25,531	*	7,056	6,309	*
All ages							
1995	49,398	10,143	48,337	7,485	14,559	*	*
1996	50,901	10,916	45,895	7,461	17,300	164	*
1997	54,092	11,249	47,123	7,640	19,460	426	*
1998	58,161	12,434	48,566	8,065	21,183	979	*
1999	58,368	12,679	49,597	8,679	20,733	1,577	*
2000	56,459	11,556	49,983	7,041	19,241	2,597	3,984
2001	58,947	11,083	49,764	5,824	14,662	3,863	7,975
2002	63,781	10,502	50,791	4,031	15,484	6,266	5,004
2003	63,202	9,870	50,382	3,283	15,159	9,599	3,111
2004	60,661	10,119	53,886	3,432	15,972	15,142	3,087
2005	33,583	10,600	34,808	3,305	10,812	12,129	3,217

Number of persons

	Community sentences					
	Action plan order	Drug treatment and testing order	Referral order[2]	Community order[3]	Total community sentences	Total persons sentenced
Males						
Aged 10-17						
1995	*	*	*	*	21,207	60,606
1996	*	*	*	*	22,649	66,433
1997	*	*	*	*	23,619	69,647
1998	*	*	*	*	25,640	75,496
1999	*	*	*	*	27,076	79,262
2000	3,678	3	*	*	31,353	80,570
2001	7,229	53	*	*	37,117	84,087
2002	5,243	61	16,065	*	46,677	83,186
2003	3,703	55	21,158	*	46,975	80,838
2004	3,753	43	22,469	*	48,983	83,413
2005	3,989	32	24,355	*	51,005	82,465
Aged 18-20						
1995	*	*	*	*	20,774	131,349
1996	*	*	*	*	20,408	134,536
1997	*	*	*	*	20,714	139,129
1998	*	*	*	*	22,730	147,868
1999	*	*	*	*	23,557	147,003
2000	*	29	*	*	23,101	142,824
2001	*	405	*	*	23,115	139,919
2002	*	396	*	*	23,443	140,914
2003	*	436	41	*	23,491	143,365
2004	*	457	13	*	24,260	137,732
2005	*	219	*	9,276	23,676	127,302
Aged 21 and over						
1995	*	*	*	*	72,898	933,034
1996	*	*	*	*	72,988	963,418
1997	*	*	*	*	76,877	947,616
1998	*	*	*	*	79,966	997,918
1999	*	*	*	*	78,831	951,514
2000	*	238	*	*	77,459	934,704
2001	*	3,108	*	*	79,646	877,019
2002	*	3,898	*	*	87,962	927,809
2003	*	5,330	101	*	92,670	994,992
2004	*	6,436	6	*	98,923	1,036,196
2005	*	4,243	*	38,659	98,178	980,894
All ages						
1995	*	*	*	*	114,879	1,124,989
1996	*	*	*	*	116,043	1,164,407
1997	*	*	*	*	121,210	1,156,392
1998	*	*	*	*	128,336	1,221,282
1999	*	*	*	*	129,464	1,177,779
2000	3,678	270	*	*	131,913	1,158,098
2001	7,229	3,566	*	*	139,878	1,101,025
2002	5,243	4,355	16,065	*	158,082	1,151,909
2003	3,703	5,821	21,300	*	163,136	1,219,195
2004	3,753	6,936	22,488	*	172,166	1,257,341
2005	3,989	4,494	24,355	47,935	172,859	1,190,661
Females						
Aged 10-17						
1995	*	*	*	*	2,131	7,194
1996	*	*	*	*	2,474	8,164
1997	*	*	*	*	2,911	9,445
1998	*	*	*	*	3,301	10,798
1999	*	*	*	*	3,547	10,898
2000	678	1	*	*	4,619	10,919
2001	1,421	12	*	*	5,742	11,398
2002	938	8	3,143	*	7,510	11,362
2003	645	14	4,350	*	8,138	11,693
2004	733	4	5,077	*	9,156	12,775
2005	843	4	5,603	*	10,101	13,738
Aged 18-20						
1995	*	*	*	*	2,114	16,134
1996	*	*	*	*	2,344	17,742
1997	*	*	*	*	2,681	17,330
1998	*	*	*	*	3,109	19,254
1999	*	*	*	*	3,377	18,409
2000	*	10	*	*	3,398	19,266
2001	*	94	*	*	3,253	17,988
2002	*	135	*	*	3,300	18,470
2003	*	117	4	*	2,989	18,702
2004	*	161	*	*	3,213	18,667
2005	*	78	*	1,155	3,080	18,749
Aged 21 and over						
1995	*	*	*	*	10,798	194,625
1996	*	*	*	*	11,774	235,054
1997	*	*	*	*	13,188	190,211
1998	*	*	*	*	14,642	205,442
1999	*	*	*	*	15,245	190,700
2000	*	40	*	*	15,608	225,914
2001	*	557	*	*	16,124	208,111
2002	*	774	*	*	17,628	228,763
2003	*	1,106	15	*	17,418	230,222
2004	*	1,495	*	*	18,411	248,043
2005	*	965	*	6,372	18,207	250,127
All ages						
1995	*	*	*	*	15,043	217,953
1996	*	*	*	*	16,592	260,960
1997	*	*	*	*	18,780	216,986
1998	*	*	*	*	21,052	235,494
1999	*	*	*	*	22,169	220,007
2000	678	51	*	*	23,625	256,090
2001	1,421	663	*	*	25,119	237,497
2002	938	917	3,143	*	28,438	258,595
2003	645	1,237	4,369	*	28,545	260,617
2004	733	1,660	5,077	*	30,780	279,485
2005	843	1,047	5,603	7,527	31,388	282,614
All persons						
Aged 10-17						
1995	*	*	*	*	23,338	67,800
1996	*	*	*	*	25,123	74,597
1997	*	*	*	*	26,530	79,092
1998	*	*	*	*	28,941	86,294
1999	*	*	*	*	30,623	90,160
2000	4,356	4	*	*	35,972	91,480
2001	8,650	65	*	*	42,859	95,485
2002	6,181	69	19,208	*	54,187	94,548
2003	4,348	69	25,508	*	55,113	92,531
2004	4,486	47	27,546	*	58,139	96,188
2005	4,832	36	29,958	*	61,106	96,203

Number of persons

	Community sentences					
	Action plan order	Drug treatment and testing order	Referral order[1]	Community order[2]	Total community sentences	Total persons sentenced
Aged 18-20						
1995	*	*	*	*	22,888	147,483
1996	*	*	*	*	22,752	152,298
1997	*	*	*	*	23,395	156,459
1998	*	*	*	*	25,839	167,122
1999	*	*	*	*	26,934	165,412
2000	*	39	*	*	26,499	162,090
2001	*	499	*	*	26,368	157,907
2002	*	531	*	*	26,743	159,384
2003	*	553	45	*	26,480	162,067
2004	*	618	13	*	27,473	156,399
2005	*	297	*	10,431	26,756	146,051
Aged 21 and over						
1995	*	*	*	*	83,696	1,127,659
1996	*	*	*	*	84,762	1,198,472
1997	*	*	*	*	90,065	1,137,827
1998	*	*	*	*	94,608	1,203,360
1999	*	*	*	*	94,076	1,142,214
2000	*	278	*	*	93,067	1,160,618
2001	*	3,665	*	*	95,770	1,085,130
2002	*	4,672	*	*	105,590	1,156,572
2003	*	6,436	116	*	110,088	1,225,214
2004	*	7,931	6	*	117,334	1,284,239
2005	*	5,208	*	45,031	116,385	1,231,021
All ages						
1995	*	*	*	*	129,922	1,342,942
1996	*	*	*	*	132,637	1,425,367
1997	*	*	*	*	139,990	1,373,378
1998	*	*	*	*	149,388	1,456,776
1999	*	*	*	*	151,633	1,397,786
2000	4,356	321	*	*	155,538	1,414,188
2001	8,650	4,229	*	*	164,997	1,338,522
2002	6,181	5,272	19,208	*	186,520	1,410,504
2003	4,348	7,058	25,669	*	191,681	1,479,812
2004	4,486	8,596	27,565	*	202,946	1,536,826
2005	4,832	5,541	29,958	55,462	204,247	1,473,275

[1] Some community sentences were renamed in April 2001. Community rehabilitation order was previously probation order, community punishment order was previously community service order and community punishment and rehabilitation order was previously combination order.
[2] Referral orders were introduced nationally on 1 April 2002. The figures include extensions of referral orders (retrospectively for 2002-04).
[3] The community order was introduced on 4 April 2005 and applies to offences committed on or after that date.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Businesses: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Energy Act 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126655]

Malcolm Wicks: The most recent estimate was published in the Regulatory Impact Assessment that accompanied the Act when it was passed in July 2004.

Construction: Tolls

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the construction industry of the introduction of road user charging. [128682]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

No decisions have been taken on a national road pricing scheme. The Government are working with local authorities interested in establishing local pricing schemes to address local congestion problems, and the first of these is expected to be in place in four to five years. Any decision on a national road pricing scheme will be taken only on the evidence of these schemes.

Given that no decisions have been taken on whether to introduce national road pricing and if so what form it might take, it is not possible to estimate the potential impact on the construction industry at this stage.

Natural Gas: Wales

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government on the Felindre to Tirley pipeline. [125882]

Malcolm Wicks: Prior to the consenting of this pipeline by the Department of Trade and Industry on 7 February 2007, Welsh Assembly Government officials attended a number of meetings held for stakeholders covering various issues, including the impact of the pipeline on the Brecon Beacons National Park and Special Areas of Conservation.

Telephone Services: Regulation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many times the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Services (ICSTIS) has *(a)* issued formal reprimands to service providers, *(b)* ordered service providers to submit future promotions and services to them for prior approval for a set period, *(c)* ordered a service provider to pay reasonable and valid claims for compensation, *(d)* imposed fines on service providers, *(e)* barred service providers from access to service and *(f)* banned named individuals from operating services for set periods for breaching the ICSTIS Code of Practice. [124254]

Margaret Hodge: ICSTIS lists over 7,900 active service providers which it regulates. The latest figures available are for 2006. During that year, ICSTIS *(a)* issued formal reprimands to 160 service providers, *(b)* asked three service providers to submit future promotions and services to them for prior approval for a set period and these services are individually monitored for compliance, *(c)* ordered 33 service providers to pay refunds to customers (the only compensation system open to ICSTIS), *(d)* imposed 157 fines on service providers, *(e)* barred access to service to 64 service providers and *(f)* banned two named individuals from operating services for set periods for breaching the ICSTIS Code of Practice. In some cases, individual service providers could have faced more than one of the aforementioned sanctions.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many service providers the Independent Committee for the Supervision of the Standards of Telephone Services has found in breach of its Code of Practice. [124255]

Margaret Hodge: ICSTIS lists over 7,900 active service providers which it regulates. In 2006, the last year for which figures are available, 99 service providers were found to be in breach of the ICSTIS Code of Practice. Further details are available in the written PQ answer 124254.

Water Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for trials of *(a)* tidal, *(b)* pump storage schemes, *(c)* wave and *(d)* hydroelectric power generation. [126896]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI currently has no plans to trial pump storage or hydroelectric schemes. Such schemes are the application of well understood mature technology and have been in operation for several decades.

Support for the research and development of wave and tidal technologies including prototype trials is provided under the DTI's Technology Programme. The programme is currently supporting five tidal and two wave projects that are expected to lead to trials of the technology.

In addition, we anticipate that the DTI's Marine Renewables Deployment Fund will support a number of multi-device grid connected wave and tidal demonstrations.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Audience Community Safety Staff

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what rights of audience community safety staff have to appear in court. [128213]

Bridget Prentice: The phrase 'community safety staff' covers a wide range of people including those working within the local authority in their community and antisocial behaviour teams and those working within housing management organisations.

Under section 60 of the County Courts Act 1984, a local authority officer has a right of audience in the county court in certain housing proceedings. Currently employees of housing management organisations who manage local authority housing stock do not have a right of audience. They rely on the court's discretion, under section 27 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, to be able to appear in court.

As part of the Government's Respect agenda we are considering how to take forward plans to allow employees of housing management organisations similar rights to local authority officers in certain proceedings related to their housing management functions, including measures to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Landlord and Tenant: Fees and Charges

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance her Department has issued on the types of services incurring service charges on which freeholders will be obliged to consult residents and leaseholders following the implementation of the Service Charges (Consultation Requirements) (England) Regulations 2003. [128879]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for the Service Charges (Consultation Requirements) (England) Regulations 2003. Guidance on the types of long-term agreements which a landlord is obliged to consult upon under these regulations is available in the Departments' booklet, "Long Leaseholders—A Guide to Your Rights and Responsibilities". This briefly explains the service charges consultation process itself and includes examples of the types of agreements that would need to be consulted upon where they exceeded 12 months.

The Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE), an Executive non-departmental public body sponsored by this Department, has also issued more detailed guidance on the consultation process and describes some types of long term agreements which a landlord is obliged to consult upon. LEASE can also give free advice on this and other service charge issues.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans for freeholders to have an obligation to consult residents or leaseholders on service charges for the provision of *(a)* a managing agent and *(b)* the provision of buildings property insurance; and what anti-avoidance measures are in place to avoid the consultation requirements being sidestepped by the rolling renewal of agreements of less than one year. [128880]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for leasehold issues. Legislation provides that landlords are required to consult with leaseholders where an agreement of more than 12 months is to be entered into that will incur expenditure to be funded through leaseholder service charges. This includes agreements with managing agents or relating to building insurance. Parliament agreed during the passage of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 that agreements of 12 months or less should not automatically require consultation. However leaseholders with agreements of 12 months or less do have the right to challenge the reasonableness of service charges they may be asked to contribute towards.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex are in receipt of (i) attendance allowance and (ii) carer's allowance. [125456]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of attendance allowance and carer's allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 20 March 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in (a) Eastbourne and (b) East Sussex are in receipt of (i) attendance allowance and (ii) carer's allowance.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The information requested is in the attached annexes.

Annex 1: Attendance allowance—all entitled cases at August 2006

	Thousand Total
County of East Sussex	17,090
Eastbourne local authority	3,590
Eastbourne parliamentary constituency	3,910

Notes:
1. Definitions and Conventions: Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Caseload totals show both the number of people in receipt of an allowance and those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. Parliamentary constituencies are those used for the Westminster Parliament.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 100 per cent. work and pensions longitudinal study.

Annex 2: Carer's allowance by payment status at August 2006

	Thousand			
		Entitled/receiving payment		
	Total	Entitlement only	Claimant receiving benefit	Entitled, payment status unknown
County of East Sussex	5,960	2,760	3,200	—
Eastbourne local authority	1,110	510	600	—
Eastbourne parliamentary constituency	1,210	580	620	—

Notes:
1. Definitions and Conventions: "—" Nil or Negligible; Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Caseload totals show the number of people who are entitled to receive carer's allowance, including those who receive no actual payment. Carers entitled to receive carer's allowance may be paid the benefit, or not paid it because they receive an overlapping benefit equal to or greater than their weekly rate of carer's allowance. 'Claimant receiving benefit' cases cannot be distinguished from 'Entitled' cases prior to August 2003. Parliamentary constituencies are those used for the Westminster Parliament.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 100 per cent. work and pensions longitudinal study.

Community Care Grants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time taken to process an application for a community care grant was in the last year for which figures are available. [124874]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average processing time for Community Care Grant applications was in the last year for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The time it takes to process Community Care Grant applications is measured by counting the average length of time taken to clear all claims processed within a set period (usually monthly). The measure is referred to as the Average Actual Clearance Time.

The clearance time for an individual Community Care Grant application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received to the date of the decision, inclusive.

The expected service level for Community Care Grants is nine days.

The information in the table covers the twelve months to January 2007.

National Monthly Community Care Grant Average Actual Clearance Times in Days

	Days
February 2006	7.5
March 2006	7.5
April 2006	9.0
May 2006	10.4
June 2006	9.7
July 2006	8.9
August 2006	9.5
September 2006	10.4
October 2006	10.0
November 2006	8.9
December 2006	9.0
January 2007	9.1

I hope this is helpful.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of monitoring the time spent processing requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the purposes of the proposed fees regulations. [121716]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. friend the Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 866W.

Disability Discrimination Act

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Disability Discrimination Act 2004 and 2005 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126637]

Mrs. McGuire: There was no Disability Discrimination Act 2004, but on 1 October 2004 we extended the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to a further 1 million employers and 7 million jobs, including 600,000 in which disabled people were working. From the same date, we extended the duties for service providers and these changes helped to open up more services to around 10 million people in this country who are likely to be protected by the Act.

Regulatory impact assessments of the costs of implementing the duties that came into force in 2004,

and of implementing the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, are available in the Library of the House.

Disabled Children

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department gives to low income households with disabled children. [125544]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* The Department for Work and Pensions provides a range of financial support for low income households with disabled children.

Depending on the circumstances of the parents, support for low income families may come from jobseeker's allowance or income support, both of which include special premia to help meet the additional costs associated with disability.

Disabled children may also be entitled to disability living allowance (DLA), a non-contributory, non-income-related and tax free contribution towards the disability-related extra care and mobility costs of severely disabled people. If a child receives DLA, their parent or carer may also be eligible to claim additional support through carers allowance.

Support is also available from other Government Departments; for example, HM Revenue and Customs are responsible for administering the child tax credit and working tax credit, both of which provide extra help for families that include a disabled child.

Jobcentre Plus: Chorlton

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what average time staff at the Chorlton office of Jobcentre Plus took to process applications to the Social Fund in the last 12 months; [125583]

(2) how many calls to the call centre at the Chorlton office of Jobcentre Plus were *(a)* answered, *(b)* missed and *(c)* intentionally terminated before being answered in each month since January 2006; [125584]

(3) what average time those calling the call centre at the Chorlton office of Jobcentre Plus waited before their call was answered in the last 12 months. [125585]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the average time taken to process Social Fund applications in the Chorlton office in the last 12 months, the average waiting times for those calling the office and how may calls were answered, missed and intentionally terminated before being answered. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The year to date performance against the clearance target for each of the five elements of Social Fund payments for Chorlton office is set out below:

	Days against target
Budgeting Loans	5.85 days against a target of 6 days
Community Care Grants	10.24 days against a target of 9 days
Crisis Loans	1.41 days against a target of 2 days
Funeral Payments	9.87 days against a target of 16 days
Sure Start Maternity Grants	6.48 days against a target of 5 days

Chorlton is a centralised Benefit Delivery Centre that has been taking on the Social Fund work of a number of smaller sites throughout the last six months. This has led to some deterioration in performance in December and January. Specific recovery plans have been put in place to improve this including training additional staff and we expect performance to recover.

Chorlton has not yet had the new telephony system installed that will allow the missed, answered and intentionally terminated calls or average waiting times to be monitored so I am sorry that I am unable to provide this information. The new telephony system should be installed by the end of December 2007.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Compensation

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many special payments have been made to customers of Jobcentre Plus in compensation for the poor performance of Jobcentre Plus in each of the last six months for which figures are available; and what the total amount of such special payments was. [119373]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 6 February 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many special payments have been made to customers of Jobcentre Plus in compensation for the poor performance of Jobcentre Plus in each of the last six months for which figures are available; and what the total amount of such special payments was. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Jobcentre Plus special payments scheme is part of a wider scheme operated by the Department for Work and Pensions. Details are contained in the Financial Redress for Maladministration Guide, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Information on the number of special payments made by Jobcentre Plus and the total amount of those payments in the last six months is in the table.

	Special payments	
2006	*Number of payments*	*Amount Paid (£)*
July	439	166,612.23
August	530	161,749.63
September	412	131,224.17
October	350	133,764.22
November	545	229,654.41
December	339	136,258.45

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Norfolk

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loan payments were made from *(a)* Swaffham and *(b)* Downham Market Jobcentre Plus branches in each of the last five years. [126239]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Crisis Loan payments have been made from the Swaffham and Downham Market Jobcentre Plus branches in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Crisis Loan payments have only been made from these Jobcentres since 2004. Prior to that, payments were issued from the former Benefits Agency offices. For customers from Swaffham and Downham Market this was the office in Kings Lynn. Details of the number of Crisis Loan payments issued from the two offices since 2004 are outlined in the table below.

	Downham Market	*Swaffham*
2004-05	138	71
2005-06	128	78
2006-07	182	237

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how far residents of *(a)* Swaffham and *(b)* Downham Market will have to travel to their nearest Jobcentre Plus branch if existing branches are closed; and what assessment he has made of the availability of public transport for those journeys. [126249]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how far residents of Swaffham and Downham Market will have to travel to their nearest Jobcentre Plus branch if existing branches are closed; and what assessment he has made of the availability of public transport for those journeys. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information about the availability of public transport and the distances to be travelled is included in the table:

Transport availability to other jobcentres from Downham Market and Swaffham

	Destination	*Method*	*Distance (miles)*	*Frequency (minutes)*	*Journey time (minutes)*
Downham Market	Kings Lynn Jobcentre	Train	12	60	16
		Bus	12	30	40-50
Swaffham	Dereham Jobcentre	Bus	14	30	30
	Kings Lynn Jobcentre	Bus	17	30	30

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the profile of customers visiting each of the Jobcentre Plus branches earmarked for closure in Norfolk; [126250]

(2) what services are offered at the *(a)* Swaffham, *(b)* Downham Market, *(c)* Wymondham and *(d)* Hunstanton Jobcentre Plus branches; and what average number of people used each branch on each day in the last six months. [126257]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what assessment he has made of the profile of customers visiting each of the Jobcentre Plus branches earmarked for closure in Norfolk and what services are offered at the Swaffham, Downham Market, Wymondham and Hunstanton Jobcentre Plus branches; and what was the average number of people using each branch on each day in the last six months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Jobcentres at Downham Market, Hunstanton, Swaffham and Wymondham deliver the full range of advisory interventions, with the exception of New Jobseeker Interviews at Downham Market, Hunstanton and Swaffham. The New Jobseeker Interviews are held at Dereham for Swaffham customers, and Kings Lynn for customers from Downham Market and Hunstanton.

All locations carry out Fortnightly Jobsearch Reviews for customers in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance. In addition, all four Jobcentres currently provide Jobpoints that enable customers to search for advertised jobs. Jobsearch facilities are also available to all customers via the Internet and by Jobseeker Direct our telephone based Jobsearch service delivered through our network of contact centres.

The average numbers of people who have attended the offices for Fortnightly Jobsearch Reviews and advisory interviews on a daily basis in the last six months are set out in the table.

Average daily number of fortnightly reviews and adviser interviews at Downham Market, Hunstanton, Swaffham and Wymondham Jobcentres

	Fortnightly reviews[1]	*Adviser interviews*[1]
Downham Market	22	10
Hunstanton	18	6
Swaffham	20	7
Wymondham	45	15

[1] Per day.

The number of advisory interventions for Wymondham is considerably higher as New Jobseeker interviews are still carried out there.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed at the Jobcentre Plus branches in *(a)* Swaffham and *(b)* Downham Market. [126252]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff are employed at the Jobcentre Plus

branches in Swaffham and Downham Market. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are six staff at Swaffham Jobcentre, three of whom are part-time, covering a total of five full-time equivalent posts. There are seven full-time staff working at Downham Market.

I hope this is helpful.

Members: Correspondence

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for North Norfolk of 23 June 2006 on behalf of his constituent Barbara Randle, passed from the Department for Education and Skills to his Department for response. [124657]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

I responded to the hon. Member on 16 March.

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have graduated from the New Deal for Young People to the New Deal 25 plus without having left the New Deal for Young People or jobseekers' allowance between their 18th and 25th birthdays. [126207]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* The number of people who are recorded as moving directly from New Deal for Young People (NDYP) to New Deal 25 plus without having left NDYP or jobseeker's allowance between their 18 and 25 birthdays is nil.

Pension Credit: Tamworth

Mr. Je[redacted] ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensio[redacted]w many residents in each electoral ward in Tam[redacted] constituency receive pension credit. [128338]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit recipients in Tamworth constituency—August 2006

Ward names	Household recipients
Bourne Vale	50
Fazeley	275
Little Aston	50
Mease and Tame	125
Shenstone	120
Stonnall	45
Amington	280
Belgrave	265
Bolehill	430
Castle	525
Glascote	315
Mercian	425
Spital	390
Stonydelph	235
Trinity	250
Wilnecote	235
Tamworth constituency	4,020

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to a multiple of five. Totals may not sum to area totals.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Personal Accounts Delivery Authority: Public Appointments

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost has been of the human resources consultancy work being performed for his Department in the search for the *(a)* chairman and *(b)* chief executive of the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority. [125457]

Mrs. McGuire: The contract for the recruitment of the chairman and chief executive for the proposed Personal Accounts Delivery Authority was procured through the Cabinet Office framework for services of this type: this framework was let upon the principles of fair and open competition.

The Department considers the exact cost of the recruitment agency to be commercial in confidence on the basis that this would harm the competitive position of the successful bidder in future public sector bids were their market competitors to understand their costs for this contract.

The information is therefore withheld under Part II of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information exemption category 13—Third party's commercial confidences.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received income support on grounds of incapacity in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [127243]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

The number of people receiving income support on the grounds of incapacity in Great Britain; each August 2004 to 2006.

2004	1,215,130
2005	1,198,040
2006	1,196,690

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who receive incapacity benefit are also in receipt of *(a)* income support, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* council tax benefit. [127244]

Mrs. McGuire: The most recent available information for each benefit is in the following tables.

The number of incapacity benefit claimants in Great Britain who are in receipt of income support: August 2006.

Incapacity benefit with income support	1,025,750

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit figures include credits only cases. *Source:* DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients also i also in receipt of incapacity benefit: Great Britain May 2003

Housing benefit	396,000
Council tax benefit	498,000

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Housing Benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. Council Tax Benefit figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent sample, taken in May 2003.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of severe disablement allowance in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [127245]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

The number of severe disablement allowance claimants in Great Britain; each August 2004 to 2006.

2004	302,730
2005	289,590
2006	277,020

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who receive severe disablement allowance also receive *(a)* income support, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* council tax benefit. [127246]

Mrs. McGuire: The most recent available information for each benefit is in the following tables:

The number of severe disablement allowance claimants in Great Britain who are in receipt of income support: August 2006.

Severe disablement allowance with income support	170,950

Notes:
1.Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients also in receipt of severe disablement allowance: Great Britain, May 2003

Housing benefit	112,000
Council tax benefit	97,000

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2003.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of lone parents were *(a)* in employment and *(b)* on out of work benefits in each quarter since 1992. [128547]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The available information is in the tables.

Lone parents in employment in Great Britain; spring quarters 1992 to 2006

Quarter	Lone parent employment rate (percentage)	Number in employment
Spring 1992	40.7	488,000
Spring 1993	40.8	511,000
Spring 1994	41.8	572,000
Spring 1995	42.3	626,000
Spring 1 996	44.1	688,000
Spring 1997	45.3	696,000
Spring 1998	46.6	764,000
Spring 1999	48.4	806,000
Spring 2000	51.2	832,000
Spring 2001	51.5	859,000
Spring 2002	53.3	923,000
Spring 2003	53.1	923,000
Spring 2004	54.3	972,000
Spring 2005	56.6	1,014,000
Spring 2006	56.6	1,008,000

Source:
Labour Force Survey Spring Quarters 1992-2006

Lone parents on out-of-work benefits in Great Britain: each quarter, May 1995 to August 2006

	Number
1995	
May	1,117,500
August	1,131,100
November	1,126,800
1996	
February	1,128,300
May	1,130,400
August	1,134,000
November	1,112,000
1997	
February	1,114,900
May	1,110,400
August	1,110,100
November	1,078,400
1998	
February	1,070,200
May	1,061,100
August	1,057,100
November	1,039,800
1999	
February	1,045,400
May	1,043,300
August	1,050,700
November	1,038,400
2000	
February	1,029,900

Lone parents on out-of-work benefits in Great Britain: each quarter, May 1995 to August 2006

	Number
May	1,022,500
August	1,026,200
November	1,007,700
2001	
February	1,010,300
May	1,005,200
August	1,011,100
November	983,500
2002	
February	980,600
May	979,000
August	986,400
November	967,500
2003	
Februzry	965,400
May	978,100
August	993,400
November	965,500
2004	
February	970,300
May	963,600
August	963,500
November	945,800
2005	
February	949,000
May	940,800
August	944,600
November	931,800
2006	
February	934,600
May	934,500
August	897,900

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. "Out-of-work benefits" includes income support, job seeker's allowance, incapacity benefit and severe disability allowance.
Source:
5 per cent. DWP administrative data

State Retirement Pensions

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the annual cost of increasing the additional 25 pence paid to pensioners over 80 years of age to £5 per week. [127509]

James Purnell: The estimated annual cost of increasing the additional 25 pence paid to pensioners over 80 years of age to £5 per week is £500 million in 2007-08.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual cost is of uprating state pensions to pensioners over 80 years of age. [127519]

James Purnell: The estimated cash cost of uprating state pensions to pensioners over 80 years of age this April will be approximately £490 million.

Note:
The state pension components included in this answer are the basic state pension, additional state pension and graduated retirement benefit for UK and overseas pensioners.

Village Agents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current funding arrangement is for village agents; and what will happen when the present funding comes to an end. [128055]

James Purnell: The Gloucestershire Village Agents is one of eight LinkAge Plus Pilots. Funding for the eight pilots for two years was secured at approximately £10 million.

Overall pilot allocation for Gloucestershire is £937,015. This funding was for pump priming to kick start the pilot in Gloucestershire.

All LinkAge Plus pilots have to develop plans to ensure long-term sustainability beyond the two year funding package: no further central funding will be provided.

A full evaluation of LinkAge Plus will be completed in autumn 2008.

Vocational Training: Fees and Charges

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what checks are undertaken by jobcentres on firms conducting interviews in jobcentres for enrolment on training courses for which applicants will have to pay; and whether it is a requirement for the pass rates of such courses to be made known to interviewees. [124659]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 20 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question regarding what checks are undertaken by Jobcentre Plus on firms conducting interviews in Jobcentres for enrolment to training courses for which applicants will have to pay; and whether it is a requirement for the pass rates of such courses to be made known to potential applicants. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our vacancy policy is to refuse to accept or advertise a vacancy where an up-front fee is payable and this is non-refundable to applicants if they are unsuccessful in gaining employment.

It is not a requirement to advise applicants of the pass rate for a particular training course.

I hope this helpful.

Welfare to Work: Reform

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the welfare system in the UK. [127750]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Ministers in this Department regularly receive representations from members of the

public and representatives of major organisations regarding our welfare system. We continue to liaise closely with a wide range of stakeholders.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Adoption: Equality

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a faith-based adoption agency which is not in receipt of public funds would be eligible for the exemption under Regulation 14, paragraph 3, of the proposed Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007. [128086]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* A faith-based adoption agency that is not operating on behalf of and under contract with a public authority could qualify for the religious organisation exemption under Regulation 14, paragraph 3 of the proposed Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007—provided the agency is not being run on a commercial basis and can demonstrate that the exemption is necessary either to comply with the doctrine of the organisation, or to avoid conflicting with the strongly held religious beliefs of a significant number of the religion's followers.

Audit Commission: Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* administrative costs were of the Audit Commission in each year since its creation. [126947]

Ruth Kelly: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member. The chief executive subsequently replied to her on 14 March as follows:

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 14 March 2007:

Your parliamentary question on the total budget and administrative costs of the Audit Commission in each year since its creation has been passed to me for reply.

The Commission does not have full records of its budget for each financial year since 1984. Instead, I have set out the Commission's actual costs for each year since 1984 in the annex to this letter.

It is not possible to answer your questions about administrative costs in the absence of any clear definition of this term. The definition of administrative costs employed within central government is not applicable to the Commission as the Commission does not have programmes run by third parties, and therefore all our expenditure is incurred in support of our statutory duties as set out in the Audit Commission Act 1998.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

The Audit Commission's costs since 1984 are as follows:

Year end	Period length (months)	Total (£000)
1984	12	12,859
1985	12	17,347
1986	12	21,623
1987	12	23,625
1988	12	25,482
1989	12	28,169
1990	12	33,704
1991	12	46,383
1992	12	61,000
1993	12	73,775
1994	12	82,216
1995	12	88,657
1996	12	92,356
1997	12	93,130
1997	7	60,311
1998	12	104,983
1999	12	111,081
2000	12	143,847
2001	12	177,927
2002	12	212,972
2002-04	17	324,054
2005	12	230,736
2006	12	193,824

The Audit Commission changed its financial year end in 1997 so there are two sets of accounts for that year. Our financial year end was changed again in 2004, so the period 2002-04 is for 17 months, from November 2002 to March 2004.

Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations her Department has received from black and minority ethnic groups on the involvement of the Race Equality Group in the development of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. [127451]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State has received two letters on the involvement of the Race Equality Group in the development of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR). Officials have also met with the chair of the British Federation of Race Equality Councils, who is also a member of the Race Equality Group, to discuss a programme of work to aid the transition of race equality councils to the CEHR.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how long the appointed Transition Commissioners are expected to assist the Commissioner for Equality and Human Rights. [127452]

Meg Munn: The transition Commissioners have been appointed to assist in assuring good continuity between the work of the existing equality Commissions (Commission for Racial Equality, Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission) and that of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. Under the Equality Act, the transition commissioners will remain in post for up to two years after the dissolution of the existing Commissions.

Community Development: Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Millennium communities have been constructed; in what locations; and how many homes have been completed in each. [128534]

Yvette Cooper: There are seven Millennium communities. Greenwich Millennium Village was the first to be announced in 1997. The others are at Allerton Bywater (near Leeds), New Islington (East

Manchester), South Lynn (Kings Lynn), East Ketley (Telford), Oakgrove (Milton Keynes) and Hastings. In total the programme will bring forward over 9,000 eco-home 'Excellent' standard homes, plus other commercial and community facilities, providing inspiration to both the development industry and the general house-buying public and demonstrating how difficult sites can be brought back into use.

All the projects are currently on site with the exception of Oakgrove (Milton Keynes) where construction work is due to start towards the end of 2007.

A total number of 955 homes have been completed to date. Of these, 867 are at Greenwich, 44 are at Allerton Bywater, 21 are at Kings Lynn and 23 are at New Islington.

A further 895 homes are currently under construction, and we anticipate 6,000 being completed by 2010.

Council Housing: Rents

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to increase rent for council house tenants; and if she will make a statement. [127660]

Yvette Cooper: Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985, as amended by section 162 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and by section 92 of the Local Government Act 2003, provides that:

1. A local housing authority may make such reasonable charges as they may determine for the tenancy or occupation of their houses.

2. The authority shall from time to time review rents and make such changes, either of rents generally or of particular rents, as circumstances may require.

European Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the merits of including Cornish people within the terms of the European Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities. [123433]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1885-86W.

Local Government: Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a by-election would be held under her proposals for reform of local government if a member of a directly elected executive *(a)* resigned and *(b)* died. [127063]

Ruth Kelly: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill provides that if the executive leader resigns or dies, there is a by-election for the whole executive. If any other member of the executive resigns or dies, it is the decision of the leader whether or not there is a by-election for that position, unless the remaining number of executive members is below the minimum allowed in which case there must be a by-election for that position.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Northavon dated *(a)* 2 October 2006, *(b)* 14 November 2006 and *(c)* 26 January 2007 on home information packs. [128607]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to the hon. Member's correspondence. I apologise for the delay.

Non-Domestic Rates: Broadband

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department plans to conduct a regulatory impact assessment as part of its forthcoming consultation on non-domestic rates for unbundled local loops; and if she will make a statement; [128060]

(2) what steps she plans to take to ensure that her Department takes into account the principles of good regulatory practice in her forthcoming consultation on non-domestic rates for unbundled local loops; and if she will make a statement; [128061]

(3) what account her forthcoming consultation on non-domestic rates for unbundled loops will take of the potential impact on the wider broadband market; and if she will make a statement. [128074]

Mr. Woolas: The forthcoming consultation on non-domestic rates and local loop unbundling will be in line with the Government's code of practice on consultations. This includes following better regulation best practice and carrying out a regulatory impact assessment which will cover the factors relevant to delivering the best solution for administering the future rating of unbundled local loops.

Social Rented Housing

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) who maintains the National Register of Social Housing; [128489]

(2) how many homes in England are on the National Register of Social Housing. [128590]

Yvette Cooper: The National Register of Social Housing is under development and contained records of 1,026,338 units of social housing stock as at 9 March 2007. The database is maintained by the Analytical Services Directorate in Communities and Local Government.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that letting agencies receive the information necessary to implement the tenancy deposit scheme. [127420]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Communities and Local Government have an information programme for landlords, letting agents and tenants. The campaign includes information packs for landlords, letting agents, tenants' advisers and the media, including "frequently asked questions"; organising round-table and networking events with local and regional stakeholders;

and accepting invitations from stakeholders to attend their forums. In addition an advertising campaign started on 26 February which will run to late May using national press, regional press, trade press, foreign traveller press, online and radio. Communities and Local Government posters and leaflets are available to order free from the direct.gov website at

www.direct.gov.uk/tenancydeposit.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128759]

Hilary Armstrong: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

National Youth Volunteering Organisation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding has been provided for the vcashpoint scheme organised by the National Youth Volunteering Organisation; and how many community projects have participated in the scheme. [128876]

Edward Miliband: 'vcashpoint' was launched on 28 February 2007. It is a match funded project which is supported equally by HSBC and the independent charity v, combining to provide a £1 million youth fund. The closing date for receipt for the first round of applications is 24 April 2007.

Policy Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which members of the Government attended the policy review event on 3 March; [128833]

(2) what the cost was to the public purse of hosting the policy review event on 3 March. [128834]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2198W.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate she has made of the total cost of the Government's policy review process to date; and how much of the sum is accounted for by *(a)* the IPSOS-MORI contracts, *(b)* seminars, meetings and consultations, *(c)* online and website projects, including contracts with external firms, *(d)* commissioning, producing and distributing reports and *(e)* civil servants' time. [128910]

Hilary Armstrong: There is no single cost centre for the Government's policy review process. However, the process has accounted for a substantial amount of activity across a number of Government Departments.

Smith Institute

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether any *(a)* people and *(b)* organisations have been served with orders for disclosure under section 8(3) of the Charities Act 1993 and associated legislation by the Charity Commission in pursuit of its investigation into compliance issues at the Smith Institute; and if she will make a statement. [128156]

Edward Miliband: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the non-ministerial Government Department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The chief executive of the Charity Commission will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1633W, on the Smith Institute, what the title was of each publication purchased; and how many volumes of each were purchased. [128888]

Hilary Armstrong: It is not possible to identify from the Department's accounting system the title and volume of each publication purchased. This information is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what independent body exists to hear appeals on decisions made by his Department. [121708]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The parliamentary ombudsman investigates complaints that injustice may have been caused by maladministration on the part of Government Departments and other public bodies. The parliamentary ombudsman is an independent statutory office-holder.

Departments: Publicity

Mike Penning: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since its inception; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128071]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Nil.

Departments: Termination of Employment

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department undertakes employee exit surveys. [119969]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Staff in my office are seconded from the Department for Communities and Local Government. As a matter of course, all staff are sent an exit questionnaire when leaving the Department.

Slavery: Anniversaries

Ms Butler: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what legacy he expects the Government to leave at the end of the commemorations of the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. [117867]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government have worked with grassroots and national organisations around four main themes, which will each provide a legacy:

1. To increase awareness of the slave trade and Britain's role in both the trade and its abolition

2. To commemorate those who suffered and died as a result of the transatlantic slave trade and recognise those people who campaigned for abolition and ensured the new laws were enforced.

3. To increase awareness of the need to address legacy issues of the slave trade, such as discrimination, racism and inequality in the UK, and poverty, disease and lack of educational access in parts of Africa, and highlight the ongoing work of the Government in this respect.

4. To highlight that slavery exists today in the form of people trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour and that the Government are taking action to eradicate it.

The Government's approach to the bicentenary complements our ongoing action to tackle contemporary issues, including race inequality and community cohesion issues in the UK, poverty and modern day slavery internationally, and improving education and access to it for all our children. Further announcements will be made throughout the year about what the Government are doing in these areas to ensure the bicentenary commemorations leave a positive and lasting legacy for the future.

Ms Butler: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals for an annual remembrance day in relation to abolition of the slave trade. [125021]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government are committed to commemorating the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade and has a range of events and activities planned throughout 2007.

There have been calls from several quarters for a national memorial day to recognise the injustice of the slave trade and its many victims. There is already a UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on 23 August. Some cities in the UK, such as Liverpool, already take part in this.

The Government are aware of the calls for an annual national remembrance day and we are keen, during this bicentenary year, to listen to the views of local communities about what date this should fall on and what form it might take, if such a day were to be instituted.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

West Bank: Israeli Settlements

10. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will table a motion under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter requiring Israel not to expand its settlements in the west bank. [128297]

Dr. Howells: Settlements are illegal under international law and settlement activity is an obstacle to peace. The Roadmap is clear that Israel should freeze all settlement construction including the "natural growth" of existing settlements, and dismantle all outposts built since 2001. We will continue to raise our concerns about settlement activity with the Israeli government.

We have no plans to table a Chapter 7 resolution in the UN Security Council onIsrael's settlement activities.

Palestine Government

11. **Mr. Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of prospects for a National Unity government in Palestine. [128298]

Dr. Howells: I welcome President Abbas' continued efforts at intra-Palestinian reconciliation, which have led to agreement on the forming of a National Unity government. This is a positive step.

We will judge the National Unity government by its actions and respond accordingly.

13. **Mr. Malik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of prospects for a National Unity government in Palestine. [128300]

Dr. Howells: I welcome President Abbas' continued efforts at intra-Palestinian reconciliation, which have led to agreement on the forming of a National Unity government. This is a positive step.

We will judge the National Unity government by its actions and respond accordingly.

Arms Sales

12. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Chinese government on arms sales to Iran. [128299]

Mr. McCartney: As part of discussions on a new Security Council resolution, officials have had detailed discussions on imposing restrictions on arms exports to and from Iran with all their P5 (China, France, Russia, US) colleagues. I am pleased to say we have now reached agreement on a text, and are taking forward these discussions with non-permanent members.

We expect the measures to build on those in resolution 1737 and cover financial measures and asset freezes against Iranian entities and individuals, as well as restrictions on the arms trade with Iran.

This is a proportional and incremental response in order to increase the pressure on Iran, which is flouting its legal obligations to comply with UN Security Council requirements.

Climate Change

14. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the European Union is taking to promote the tackling of climate change internationally. [128301]

Margaret Beckett: The EU has shown international leadership on tackling climate change by agreeing an ambitious package at the Spring Council, including a commitment to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent. by 2020.

This underlines the EU's intent to move swiftly to a competitive, low carbon economy, and paves the way for progress in the G8 and the UN. It also shows that EU governments are responding actively to their citizens' concerns.

Zimbabwe

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her South African counterpart on the security situation in Zimbabwe. [128303]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to her South African counterpart on 15 March about the situation in Zimbabwe. They discussed the deepening crisis and what more needs to be done to increase the pressure on Mugabe and his Government to change their policies and bring the country back from the brink. We will continue to work closely with South Africa and other members of the international community to achieve this end.

I should add that in my statement to the Human Rights Council on 13 March, I joined my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, in utterly condemning the violent repression of the peaceful prayer meeting on 11 March. While in Geneva last week, I also discussed Zimbabwe with Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The situation in Zimbabwe remains deeply worrying. Importantly, our humanitarian assistance in the form of food and health care is continuing and this is helping to keep ordinary Zimbabweans alive.

18. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [128305]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in her answers to questions in the House earlier today set out the Government's position on the political situation in Zimbabwe.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to Portugal on the unacceptability of the presence of President Mugabe and other members of the government of Zimbabwe at the EU-African Union summit during the forthcoming Portuguese presidency of the EU. [127732]

Mr. McCartney: The UK wants a successful EU-Africa summit that signals the EU's commitment to Africa and confirms a genuine partnership between the two continents founded inter alia on a respect for good governance and human rights which is lacking in today's Zimbabwe. We have made our views on Zimbabwean representation at the summit clear to our EU partners, including Portugal. We will look to the presidency for a solution on attendance that is consistent with the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe.

Iraq: Civil War

17. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of whether Iraq is in a state of civil war. [128304]

Dr. Howells: We share concerns at the high levels of violence in Iraq, but the term civil war is not an accurate description: the Iraqi Government are still unitary and there is no rival Government. Key is to bring down the level of violence and to reach a sustainable political solution. The Government of Iraq are committed to this and their friends and allies are providing support to help them achieve it.

Bilateral Relations: Russia

19. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on bilateral relations with Russia. [128306]

Mr. Hoon: A productive partnership with Russia is important to the successful achievement of a wide range of the Government's international priorities. We will continue to work with Russia on important issues such as Kosovo, Iran, energy and climate security, and in the promotion of trade and investment. Where obstacles and disagreements exist, we continue to insist on a transparent, open and honest dialogue to resolve them.

Ethiopia

20. **Mr. David:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications of the recent release of kidnapped embassy officials in Ethiopia for the activities of consular staff. [128307]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are delighted that the five staff and family members from our embassy in Addis Ababa abducted recently in Ethiopia have been released. The Government do, however, remain concerned for the welfare of the Ethiopians who were taken at the same time as the embassy group and hope they too will be released.

To deal with this incident, the Government deployed additional staff to our embassies in Asmara and Addis Ababa, and to Djibouti. Along with staff already posted to these embassies, and with officials in London and elsewhere, they worked tirelessly and in a wholly co-ordinated way to help secure the release of the five.

The Government are grateful for the exceptional co-operation and assistance received from Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia and President Isaias of Eritrea, and their Governments, as well as from others in the region.

Sri Lanka

21. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Sri Lanka; and if she will make a statement. [128308]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, Rohitha Bogollagama, on 7 March. She made clear our view that violence would not resolve the conflict. She emphasised the Government's commitment to Sri Lanka's Norwegian-facilitated peace process and our willingness to help bring about a peaceful solution. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister reiterated these points in the House on 14 March.

Pakistan

22. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Pakistan concerning the dismissal of the Chief Justice. [128309]

Dr. Howells: We are closely following developments in Pakistan following the decision to suspend the Chief Justice of Pakistan and to refer his case to the Supreme Judicial Council.

The EU Troika has made a joint démarche to the Government of Pakistan, stressing the need to respect the independence of the judiciary and to follow the rule of law.

Iran

23. **Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is advocating at the UN Security Council on Iran's nuclear programme. [128310]

Dr. Howells: The United Kingdom is co-sponsoring the Resolution on Iran currently before the Security Council, drafted by the UK, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US (the "E3+3"), which builds on the measures implemented by Security Council Resolution 1737.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of Iran's compliance with Security Council resolutions; and if she will make a statement. [128302]

Dr. Howells: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General, Dr. Mohammad el-Baradei, reported on 22 February that Iran has not complied with Security Council Resolution 1737, and therefore neither with 1696 which made the IAEA Board requirement of the suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities a mandatory requirement. The Security Council is, as envisaged in Resolution 1737, considering further measures under Article 41 of the UN Charter.

Kashmir

24. **Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Governments of India and Pakistan on the political situation in Kashmir. [128311]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed India-Pakistan relations and the situation in Kashmir with the Government of Pakistan during her visit to Islamabad in February 2007.

We welcome India and Pakistan's continuing commitment to the dialogue process, and hope that this will lead to a lasting resolution of all outstanding issues, including Kashmir.

Convention on Bribery

25. **Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the United Kingdom's obligations are under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development convention on bribery; and if she will make a statement. [128312]

Mr. McCartney: I made a statement on 19 March, and we published the report on our progress on implementing the Convention on 15 March. I have placed copies of both documents in the Library of the House.

Afghanistan: Administration of Justice

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she expects functioning institutions of justice to be fully operational as set out in the London Compact of 2006 in *(a)* Badakhshan, *(b)* Badghis, *(c)* Baghlan, *(d)* Balkh, *(e)* Bamyan, *(f)* Daykundi, *(g)* Farah, *(h)* Faryab, *(i)* Ghazni, *(j)* Ghor, *(k)* Helmand, *(l)* Herat, *(m)* Jowzjan, *(n)* Kabul, *(o)* Kandahar, *(p)* Kapisa, *(q)* Khost, *(r)* Konar, *(s)* Kunduz, *(t)* Laghman, *(u)* Lowgar, *(v)* Nangarhar, *(w)* Nimruz, *(x)* Nurestan, *(y)* Oruzgan, *(z)* Paktia, *(aa)* Paktika, *(ab)* Panjshir, *(ac)* Parvan, *(ad)* Samangan, *(ae)* Sar-e Pol, *(af)* Takhar, *(ag)* Wardak and *(ah)* Zabol in Afghanistan by the end of 2010; what progress has been made; and what progress she expects to be made by the end of the year in each province. [127499]

Dr. Howells: The benchmarks set out in the 2006 Afghanistan Compact cover a range of issues including the institutions of justice. The Compact also mandated the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) to keep progress of all the benchmarks under regular review. The JCMB, comprising members of both the Afghan Government and the international community, meets four times a year to review the implementation of the Compact and suggest corrective action, as appropriate. As a member of the JCMB, the UK is playing a full part in ensuring the Compact is implemented and carefully monitored.

The full details of all the progress reviews to date are available on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy's website (www.ands.gov.af) under 'JCMB'.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the reforms to strengthen the professionalism, credibility and integrity of key institutions of the justice system in Afghanistan was met by the end of 2006 in accordance with the target of the London Compact of 2006; what further progress she expects to be made by the end of 2007; and whether she expects the targets to be fully implemented by the end of 2010. [127526]

Dr. Howells: The Italian Government is the partner on justice sector reform in Afghanistan. However, it is supported by the efforts and investments of the UK and other members of the International Community, including through the Government's work on Counter Narcotics (CN). To date we have contributed to the Italian remit by building up the counter-narcotic criminal justice system infrastructure in the following ways: professional mentors working with organisations such as the Criminal Justice Task Force, supporting judges, prosecutors, investigators; building a high-secure detention prison wing; Her Majesty's Prison Service training for Afghan prison officers; and training and mentoring for the CN Police.

The Benchmarks set out in the 2006 Afghanistan Compact cover a range of issues, including the institutions of justice. The Compact also mandated the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) to keep progress of all the benchmarks under regular review. The JCMB, comprising members of both the Afghan Government and the international community, meets four times a year to review the implementation of the compact and suggest corrective action, as appropriate. As a member of the JCMB, the UK is playing a full part in ensuring the compact is implemented and carefully monitored.

The full details of all the progress reviews to date are available on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy's website (www.ands.gov.af) under 'JCMB'.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the impact of opium crop eradication efforts in Helmand in 2006 on the security situation in the province. [127143]

Margaret Beckett: According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, an estimated 3,166 hectares of opium crop were eradicated in Helmand in 2006. There is no evidence to suggest that increased Taliban activity in Helmand last year was due to the Afghan Government's counter narcotics efforts. Poppy eradication does not generally meet with violent resistance if it is targeted at areas where there are legal alternatives for farmers.

The UK will continue to work with the Afghans to ensure eradication in Helmand is targeted effectively and that local security conditions are taken fully into account.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the eradication of opium crop in 2005 on the overall opium crop harvested in Afghanistan in 2006. [127144]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, (Dr. Howells), gave the hon. Member for Newport, West (Paul Flynn) on 13 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1099-1100W. Cultivation of opium in Afghanistan went up by 59 per cent. in 2006, as a result of a number of factors. However, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's 2006 opium survey suggests that where eradication took place in 2005 farmers were less likely to plant poppy in the next season.

Eradication is an important means of deterrent, where there is access to legal livelihoods. It needs, however, to be balanced with measures to interdict drugs, bring criminals to justice, build institutions and encourage development of rural communities to provide alternatives for poppy farmers.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what strategy is in place for opium crop eradication in Afghanistan in the lead up to the 2007 harvest. [127147]

Margaret Beckett: Eradication policy and implementation is the responsibility of the Afghan Government, and is one of the eight pillars of their National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). The NDCS supports the efforts of the Central Afghan Eradication Force and governor-led-eradication campaigns. The NDCS also states that eradication should be targeted in areas where there is access to legal rural livelihoods. The UK provides support to the Afghans for the planning, monitoring and targeting of eradication.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her estimate is of the volume of production of opium in Afghanistan in each of the past five years; and what her estimate is of likely production volume in the next three years. [127860]

Dr. Howells: The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducts an annual survey into the level of opium poppy cultivation and production in Afghanistan. These surveys assess that the potential volume of opium production in Afghanistan was 6,100 metric tonnes (mt) in 2006, 4,100 mt in 2005, 4,200 mt in 2004, 3,600 mt in 2003 and 3,400 mt in 2002. The cultivation picture varies between and within provinces and comparing total levels of production does not necessarily represent an accurate picture of progress to date; in areas of Afghanistan where access to governance, security and development has improved, reductions achieved in 2005 were sustained and in some cases improved upon in 2006. Although it is too early to predict the levels of production in the next three years, the UNODC's 2007 Rapid Assessment Survey suggests that Afghanistan may be facing another year of high poppy cultivation.

Afghanistan: Migrant Workers

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she expects Afghanistan and *(a)* its neighbours and *(b)* other countries in the region to reach agreements to enable Afghanistan (i) to import skilled labour and (ii) to enable Afghans to seek work in the region and send remittances back to Afghanistan by the end of 2010 as set out in the target of the 2006 London Compact; what progress has been made; and what progress she expects to be made by the end of 2007. [127504]

Dr. Howells: The Afghan Government and their regional/international partners continue to work towards the benchmarks set out in the Afghanistan

Compact. The Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), which comprises members of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community is mandated under the Compact to keep all the benchmarks under regular review. An update on progress against the benchmarks is expected in May. The full details will be available on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy's website (www.ands.gov.af) under "JCMB".

Afghanistan: Prisons

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she expects prisons to have separate facilities for men, women and juveniles in Afghanistan by the end of 2010 in accordance with the target of the London Compact of 2006; what progress has been made towards the target; and what progress she expects to be made by the end of 2007. [127527]

Dr. Howells: The female prison population in Afghanistan currently stands at approximately 300 persons, approximately 2 per cent. of the overall prison population. They are all detained in separate accommodation for women.

In Afghan law, a juvenile is between the ages of 12 and 18. Juvenile detention is monitored by the UN Office of Drug Control. They report that a number of designated facilities currently exist, which are separate from prisons and other adult detention facilities. Adult males are detained separately from both women and juveniles.

Work is ongoing on construction projects at Wardak, Lashkar Gah, and a new detention facility in Gereshk. Two other facilities, Mazar-e-Sharif and Gardez are being overseen through the UN Office of Drugs and Crime and should be completed end of 2007. All these new facilities will be fully compliant with UN minimum standards of prisoner accommodation.

Burma

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her European colleagues on the military dictatorship in Burma. [127514]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions on Burma with European colleagues.

However, I raised Burma with EU and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) colleagues at the EU/ASEAN Ministerial meeting in Nuremberg on 15 March. I stressed at the meeting, which was attended by all ASEAN Nations including Burma, that the ongoing human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese government were unacceptable and should cease. A number of EU Partners also condemned the Burmese regime.

Chad: Refugees

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the situation in Chad; what action the Government is taking to avert a worsening of the situation in Chad; what discussions she has had with *(a)* her counterparts on the United Nations Security Council and *(b)* the British High Commission in Yaounde on the assessment of the situation by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. [126807]

Mr. McCartney: The UK is in regular contact with the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian agencies about the evolving situation in eastern Chad. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID) undertook a humanitarian assessment to eastern Chad in February. We are concerned at the increasing levels of internal displacement due to inter-ethnic fighting and cross-border attacks from Darfur, the protection of refugees, the security environment for humanitarian agency operations and the fragility of the natural resource base to support displaced populations. The UK, through DFID, is providing £4 million to support the humanitarian response to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) this year.

Representatives from the FCO and our High Commission in Yaounde visit Chad regularly. A UK delegation, including a representative from our High Commission in Yaounde, visited N'Djamena from 19-22 February this year. The delegation met a wide range of interlocutors, including the Foreign Minister and senior officials of the Government of Chad, and the UNHCR representative. The delegation took every opportunity to impress on interlocutors:

the need to improve Chad/Sudan relations and border security, in accordance with the Tripoli Agreement;

the importance of the Government of Chad honouring its responsibility to the refugees and IDPs, and accepting the deployment of the UN to assist in achieving this objective;

that we and the international community were looking to the Government of Chad to pursue dialogue with the rebel groups with a view to bringing Chad's internal rebellion to a peaceful conclusion.

The UK continues to raise the humanitarian situation in Chad, including the plight of refugees and the internally displaced, in relevant Security Council consultations on a regular basis. We did this most recently on 27 February.

Together with partners in the Security Council, we are urging the UN to develop a workable plan for a UN presence in Chad as proposed by UN Security Council Resolution 1706.

China: Abortion

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on forced abortions in China; and if she will make a statement. [128110]

Mr. McCartney: We are aware of reports of the maladministration of China's One Child Policy involving enforced sterilisation and abortions, including those highlighted by the human rights lawyer, Chen Guangcheng. While we do not question China's right or need to implement family planning policies, we have made it

clear to the Chinese Government that we believe they should be based on the principles of consent and not coercion.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her estimate is of the number of political prisoners being held by the Cuban Government. [127505]

Mr. Hoon: It is difficult to estimate the number of political prisoners in Cuba as the Cuban Government maintains tight control over information about its prisons. However, Amnesty International currently recognises that there are at least 67 "prisoners of conscience" in Cuba and is currently reviewing the cases of dozens of other prisoners who could also be considered prisoners of conscience.

In a report dated 9 January, the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCHRNR—a standard non-official source of human rights information in Cuba) documented 283 cases. The CCHRNR has also reported thousands of young Cubans who are imprisoned on the charge of "peligrosidad predelictiva", which means they have not committed a crime but are considered likely to do so. More information on the human rights situation in Cuba can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2006 Annual Human Rights Report at:

www.fco.gov.uk/humanrights

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to the Government of Cuba on the detention of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. [127720]

Mr. Hoon: We remain extremely concerned about the plight of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and other political prisoners in Cuba. We are particularly concerned about those political prisoners who, like Dr. Biscet, are reported to be suffering poor health yet are not provided with adequate medical treatment. Our embassy in Havana continues to monitor Dr. Biscet's case and maintains contact with his supporters and family. We regularly raise the situation of all political prisoners in Cuba with Cuban authorities both in London and Havana and call for their immediate release. During its most recent review of the EU's Common Position on Cuba in June 2006, the European Council once again

"urged the Cuban Government to unconditionally release all political prisoners".

More information on the human rights situation in Cuba, and on UK and EU actions, can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2006 Annual Human Rights Report, available at:

www.fco.gov.uk/humanrights

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure her Department's economical use of paper. [128007]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office through our intranet, environmental volunteers in directorates, and annual awareness raising campaigns encourages staff to rely where possible on paperless communications and to minimise the amount of paper consumed.

EC Action: Terrorism

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* membership are of the European Union's clearing house in respect of the addition and deletion of groups included on the list of terrorist organisations; what opportunities there are for (i) the organisations themselves and (ii) other non-government bodies (A) to have a hearing and (B) to submit evidence; and if she will make a statement. [128848]

Dr. Howells: The Council of the EU decided in 2001 to draw up a list of terrorist groups and individuals in order to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), which obliges all UN member states to

"freeze without delay funds and other financial assets or economic resources of persons who commit, or attempt to commit, terrorist acts or participate in or facilitate the commission of terrorist acts".

The EU autonomous terrorist asset freezing regime was established under Council Common Position 2001/931/Common Foreign and Security Policy of 27 December 2001.

The Council keeps the EU list of terrorist groups and individuals under continual review. Decisions to add or remove individuals or groups are made by the Council of Ministers.

The EU has reviewed and improved its procedures for listing individuals and groups, taking full account of the judgment by the Court of First Instance of the European Communities on 12 December 2006. All groups listed since 12 December have been notified of the reasons for their inclusion on the list, and an explanation as to how the group can exercise its right to provide further information relevant to the case and/or petition for delisting.

In addition to petitioning the Council for delisting, groups and individuals may also challenge their listing before the Court of First Instance of the European Communities.

Other non-government bodies can also provide relevant information and/or evidence to the Council of the EU, by contacting the Council Secretariat.

Embassies: Ministers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she keeps a record of which Ministers have stayed at each British embassy or residence. [123001]

Margaret Beckett: Records of where Ministers stay on overseas visits are not held centrally. Obtaining the information the hon. Member requires would incur disproportionate cost.

Equatorial Guinea: Human Rights

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the human rights record of the government of Equatorial Guinea. [126974]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office takes a close interest in the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea, and raises concerns about human rights issues both bilaterally and through the regular EU dialogue with Equatorial Guinea.

We continue to be extremely concerned about the lack of access to justice and lack of independence of the judiciary in Equatorial Guinea, following the trials of the alleged coup plotters in 2005. Arbitrary detention is common for political reasons, as well as criminal, and is sometimes imposed for apparently minor offences. Imprisonment without trial is also commonplace. Expatriates working on contracts in the country have been detained, not always in prison, in purely commercial disputes. Corruption and bribery is widespread throughout the judicial system. Nepotism is also rife, so resolving consular difficulties can be problematic and time consuming. Where trials do occur, they are often considered to be unfair. Amnesty International, which observed the coup trials in 2005, stated in its 2006 report that subsequent trials were also unfair, with defendants held incommunicado before the trial and reportedly convicted on the basis of confession statements extracted under torture.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response she *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make to the European Commission's conclusion on Iran's future acquisition of sufficient weapons-grade uranium to make a nuclear weapon; and if she will make a statement. [127925]

Dr. Howells: The European Council Secretariat prepared a "food for thought" paper, intended to stimulate discussion at the February meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council. The paper did not reflect a considered or shared EU analysis.

Concerns about Iranian development of enrichment technology are pressing, but it is also clear that Iran is having difficulty in mastering enrichment technology. We still have time to make diplomacy work, and a renewed suspension of enrichment-related activity is still relevant and important.

The UK and the rest of the EU remain fully committed to finding a negotiated solution and to prevent Iran from acquiring the means to produce nuclear weapons, through stepping up pressure on Iran to comply with United Nation Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors requirements while keeping generous proposals on the table. We have seen that Security Council Resolution 1737 has stimulated a debate inside Iran about the cost of the course on which the regime has set the country. A further resolution imposing additional incremental measures is under discussion in the Security Council.

Iraq: Oil

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings officials from her Department have held with international oil companies since January 2003 at which Iraq was discussed; and who was present at each meeting. [128150]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave to him on 19 February, *Official Report*, columns 399-400W. Meetings with oil companies since 2003 have involved a wide range of Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials.

Marc Swanson

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress her officials have made in their inquiries of the Ministry of Justice in Brazil on the disappearance of Marc Swanson in 2003; and if she will make a statement. [128287]

Dr. Howells: Our officials in London and Brazil are continuing to press the Brazilian Ministry of Justice for information about the ongoing investigation into the disappearance of Marc Swanson. We will continue to do all we properly can to ensure that the authorities are doing everything possible to trace him. Officials continue to maintain contact with the local police and will ensure the family are kept fully up to date.

Marie Therese Nlandu

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has received on the imprisonment of Marie Thèrese Nlandu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [126811]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received a number of letters from members of the public and hon. Members on the detention of Mme Nlandu. There have also been several parliamentary questions on the case.

Namibia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Government Ministers visited Namibia in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [126988]

Mr. McCartney: No Government Ministers visited Namibia in 2005 or 2006.

Namibia: Land Redistribution

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Namibian government on land redistribution in Namibia. [126973]

Mr. McCartney: Our high commission in Windhoek has regular discussions with the Government of Namibia, including over the issue of land redistribution. In the areas of land reform and restitution, the Government

of Namibia are officially committed to a constitutional and market-based process of land reform through the willing buyer, willing seller principle. The Department for International Development has previously funded assistance on the technical aspects of Land Reform, in collaboration with Germany, by supporting the work of the Namibian Ministry of Land's permanent technical team. Although the UK no longer has a bilateral aid programme in Namibia, areas such as land reform continue to be supported, through our contribution to the European Commission.

Namibia: Zimbabwe

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Foreign Minister of Namibia on Zimbabwe. [126990]

Mr. McCartney: Our High Commission in Windhoek regularly raises Zimbabwe with Namibian Government Ministers and the Government of Namibia is well aware of our views. Zimbabwe was most recently discussed on 22 February when the Heads of EU Missions in Windhoek met the Namibian Deputy Foreign Minister.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the access given to North Korean nuclear facilities for International Atomic Energy Agency director Mohamed el-Baradei. [126808]

Mr. McCartney: Dr. el-Baradei visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 13-14 March. He said during a press briefing on 5 March that the purpose of his visit would be twofold. Firstly, to consider normalisation of relations between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and secondly, to make arrangements for IAEA personnel to carry out inspections, as agreed at the latest round of Six Party Talks on 13 February.

Further details on Dr. el-Baradei's visit to the DPRK can be found on the IAEA website at:

http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/IaeaDprk/index.shtml.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role she expects the United Kingdom to play in ensuring North Korea dismantles its nuclear weapons programme; and if she will make a statement. [127337]

Mr. McCartney: The agreement reached by the participants in the Six Party Talks on 13 February is a step in the right direction towards the peaceful denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. The UK bilaterally and the EU will take every opportunity to urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to fulfil the commitments it has entered into. However, we remain profoundly concerned by the nuclear test conducted on 9 October 2006 and look to the DPRK to stop all activities of concern as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1718. Meanwhile the sanctions remain in place.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response she has made to the decision taken by North Korea to commence a nuclear disarmament programme; and if she will make a statement. [127340]

Mr. McCartney: We welcome the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) commitment to shut down and seal the Yongbyon nuclear facility and invite back International Atomic Energy Agency personnel to monitor the agreement. This is an essential first step towards the goal of full denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. The UK bilaterally and the EU will continue to urge the DPRK to fulfil the commitments it has entered into. We remain profoundly concerned by the nuclear test conducted on 9 October 2006 and look to the DPRK to stop all activities of concern as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1718. Meanwhile, the sanctions remain in place.

Pakistan: Entry Clearances

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff at HM High Commission, Islamabad, are employed to work full-time on immigration matters. [127747]

Dr. Howells: At present there are 245 staff employed full-time on Immigration matters in our High Commission in Islamabad.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what average time was taken between the receipt by HM high commission, Islamabad of a registered appeal against the refusal of entry clearance and a review being completed by an entry clearance manager in the most recent period for which figures are available. [127755]

Dr. Howells: During January to February 2007, the most recent period for which the information is available, the average time taken between receipt of a registered appeal and a review being completed at our visa section in Islamabad is approximately six weeks.

Poland

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to visit Poland. [126969]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary currently has no plans to visit Poland. However, she met the Polish Foreign Minister Fotyga in London on 19 March.

Security Guards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contracts were awarded by her Department to private military security companies for work in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* other countries in each of the last five years; what the (i) value and (ii) purpose was of each such contract; and if she will make a statement. [127014]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a duty of care to its staff and to ensure that all contracts are subject to rigorous selection so that we obtain full value for money. Any company engaged by the Department needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process in line with Public Procurement Guidelines.

The information in the table covers contracts put in place by the FCO with private security companies, and reflects the contract values concerned and not the actual spend. Many of these contracts, most notably those in Iraq and Afghanistan, also cover other Government Departments with the costs thereof being shared out accordingly.

The FCO has in excess of 200 posts and operates a devolved budgetary system for the contracting of security services, with the exception of certain posts in hostile/high-threat environments (in the table), therefore complete central records of contracts with private security companies are not maintained.

Each post would need to be contacted to provide details of the companies used and the value of each security contract. Such office-wide outreach would require significant resource, in excess of the current threshold for disproportionate cost.

	Purpose	*Value (£ per annum)*
Iraq		
2003-04	Static and Mobile Security	16,800,000
2004-05	Static and Mobile Security	49,500,000
2005-06	Static and Mobile Security	47,800,000
2006-07	Static and Mobile Security	30,400,000
2004-07	Provision of Police Mentors and Advisers to the Government	19,900,000
Afghanistan		
2004	Mobile Security, Training	4,000,000
2005	Mobile Security, Training	4,000,000
2006	Mobile Security, Training	15,000,000
2007	Static and Mobile Security (including Other Government Departments)	19,600,000
2006-07	Provision of Police Mentors and Advisers to the Government	511,000
Other countries		
Saudi Arabia		
2004-05	Static Security (Riyadh)	1,500,000
2005-06	Static Security (Riyadh and Jeddah)	2,500,000
2006-07	Static Security (Riyadh and Jeddah)—contract to be re-tendered pre-expiration, September 2007	2,500,000
Hong Kong, Beijing, Moscow, Cairo (Joint Contract)		
2003-07	Static Guarding	4,200,000

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking in relation to recent clashes between the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan government. [127889]

Dr. Howells: I refer my right hon. Friend to the written answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 246- 47W. The UK urges both sides to the conflict to pursue a peaceful solution and to do more to protect the civilian population.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has received on the conflict in Sri Lanka. [127890]

Dr. Howells: We receive frequent representations from hon. Members, members of the Sri Lankan diaspora and non-governmental organisations on the conflict in Sri Lanka. These representations reflect a wide variety of views.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with EU counterparts on the conflict in Sri Lanka. [127891]

Dr. Howells: The EU, as one of the co-chairs of the Tokyo Conference, has a key role to play in the Sri Lankan peace process. Officials in London, Brussels and at our high commission in Colombo are in frequent contact with the German EU Presidency, EU partners and the European Commission.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the recent clashes between the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan Government. [127892]

Dr. Howells: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave to him on 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 283, and to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 246-247W.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking in relation to recent reports of human rights abuses against Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government. [127893]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade spoke at the fourth session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva this month about the need for the Sri Lankan Government to move forward with the effective investigation of human rights violations and to hold those perpetrating such acts to account. There should be no immunity for human rights violators.

I also refer my right hon. Friend to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 246-247W.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Foreign Secretary of *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Egypt and *(c)* Chad on the Darfur Region of Sudan. [126998]

Mr. McCartney: The UK's ambassador-at-large for the Sudanese Peace Process, Christopher Prentice, met the Chadian Foreign Minister on 20 February. He also met senior representatives of the Government of Libya on 21 February.

The UK's Permanent Representative-designate to the UN in New York, John Sawers, discussed Darfur with a range of senior interlocutors in Egypt on 4 to 5 March. And my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, met the Egyptian Ambassador on 6 March.

With all our interlocutors we emphasise the need for an immediate ceasefire in Darfur, an early resumption of the political process there, and the rapid implementation of the UN support package for the African Union Mission in Sudan, culminating in the formation of the hybrid force.

Sudan: Chad

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Governments of Sudan and Chad to try to reduce border tensions. [126940]

Mr. McCartney: We take every opportunity to press both Sudan and Chad to stop supporting each other's rebels and to fulfil their obligations under the Tripoli Agreement. Our ambassador-designate to the United Nations in New York, John Sawers, did so in meetings with the Government of Sudan on 6 March. And Christopher Prentice, our ambassador-at-large for the Sudanese Peace Process, raised the issue in meetings with the Government of Chad on 20 February. Given the importance of this issue, we will continue to press both Governments on this matter. We also regularly discuss Sudan and Chad with our partners in the Security Council and with regional Governments such as Libya.

I raised a range of issues with the Sudanese Minister for Justice in a meeting with him in the margins of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 14 March.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made in introducing the new UN-AU hybrid force into Darfur. [126941]

Mr. McCartney: The UN-African Union (AU) hybrid force for Darfur will be the final part of a three-phase approach to increasing UN support to the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) agreed in Addis Ababa in November last year. The initial stage (the Light Support Package) has been partially deployed. The AU and UN have agreed on the details of the second stage (the Heavy Support Package), but have been waiting, since 24 January, for President Bashir's acceptance of these. The UN's Department of Peace-Keeping Operations is working with the AU to finalise details of the Hybrid force.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, visited New York last month to press the UN for more rapid action to implement the support package for AMIS. We have passed the same message to the AU. In the meanwhile we remain committed to supporting the AU force, to which we have committed over £65 million since its inception.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Namibian counterpart on the progress of the African Union in dealing with the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [126972]

Mr. McCartney: The issue of Darfur is raised through our high commission in Windhoek, as part of a regular dialogue on African peacekeeping issues. The issue was discussed most recently on 22 February, when heads of EU missions met the Namibian Deputy Foreign Minister in Windhoek.

Timor-Leste: Homicide

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the President of Indonesia to request that Indonesia's former Information Minister, Yunus Yosfiah, give his account of events in Balibo in October 1975 to the Court following the request of the Deputy Coroner made during the inquest in New South Wales into the death of Brian Peters; and if she will make a statement. [127601]

Mr. McCartney: The Australian Government has not sought our help with the inquest. We have previously made representations on the Balibo case to the Indonesian government and they are aware of our position.

Timor-Leste: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* the latest security situation in Timor-Leste and *(b)* the likelihood of (i) the Presidential and (ii) Parliamentary elections being conducted in a free and fair manner; and if she will make a statement. [127602]

Mr. McCartney: Our Embassy in Jakarta covers Timor-Leste. The Embassy deployed a team of four officials to Dili on 7 March to assess the situation on the ground. They reported that Dili was calm at the time of their arrival, but that the security situation remains fragile and susceptible to change at any moment.

We are concerned by the deterioration of the security situation in Timor-Leste and the resulting casualties and have urged all concerned to bring an end to the violence and resolve the problems within the framework of the constitution and laws.

Eight candidates have registered for the Presidential elections scheduled for 9 April and the date of the Parliamentary elections will be set after this date. The UN Mission to Timor-Leste (UNMIT) has been working to ensure that the elections take place on time and there has been no indication that they are likely to be postponed. UNMIT will provide trained and experienced election monitors to ensure that the elections are carried out in a fair and open manner.

Whales: Conservation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to her counterparts in *(a)* Japan, *(b)* Norway and *(c)* Iceland on full-scale commercial whaling; and if she will make a statement. [125348]

Margaret Beckett: I have made no representations to my counterparts in Japan, Norway and Iceland.

The departmental lead on this subject lies with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Officials from DEFRA and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in daily contact regarding whaling, and work in tandem to lobby governments and to publicise the need for whale conservation.

UK officials at the International Whaling Commission meeting in June 2006 were at the forefront of the opposition to Japan's unsuccessful attempts to overturn the international moratorium on commercial whaling. In December 2006, the UK joined a demarche of 27 countries requesting Japan to reconsider its planned whaling programme for 2007.

The UK has consistently opposed Norway's commercial whaling programme. In April 2006, the UK led a demarche against Norway's announcement of a record increase in the number of North Atlantic minke whales they planned to catch last year. As it transpired, Norway only caught 546 of its planned catch of 1,052.

The UK led the international condemnation of Iceland's decision to resume commercial whaling. In November 2006, our British ambassador in Reykjavik led a demarche of 25 countries plus the European Commission, making clear the extreme disappointment felt by those parties at Iceland's decision, and urging Iceland to abandon its current operations. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Bradshaw), summoned the Icelandic ambassador to protest in the strongest possible terms against Iceland's activities.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the detention of Morgan Tsvangirai and other figures from the Movement for Democratic Change by the Zimbabwean government; and if she will make a statement. [127502]

Mr. McCartney: Our ambassador in Harare and officials from the embassy, together with other members of the diplomatic community, have sought access to those detained following the violent suppression of the Save Zimbabwe Campaign prayer meeting on 11 March, as well as visiting the hospitals where the injured are being treated, and reported back on the horrific torture some of those have been subject too, including opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, have already made clear in their statements, we utterly condemn the violent and unwarranted action taken by the Government of Zimbabwe on 11 March and hold Mugabe and his government responsible for the safety of all those detained. The Zimbabwean ambassador was called into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 13 March to hear the UK's condemnation at first hand, and we have met leaders of Zimbabwe's trade unions to express support for their civil rights. We have urged the Zimbabwe authorities to allow all those still detained access to legal advice and all necessary medical care, and to arrange for their immediate release.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with counterparts within the United Nations Security Council of the implications of the situation in Zimbabwe for international peace and security. [127728]

Mr. McCartney: We keep in touch with members of the UN Security Council about the situation in Zimbabwe, and encourage the UN to stay focused on all aspects of the appalling conditions in Zimbabwe. We welcome the UN Secretary-General's condemnation of the recent arrest and beating of legitimate protestors in Zimbabwe, and the 13 March statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Commonwealth Secretariat on measures to engage with *(a)* government and *(b)* civil society groups in Zimbabwe on resolving the situation in that country. [127729]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary briefed the Commonwealth Secretary-General on 30 January about the situation in the country. However, Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth in December 2003 and there is currently no formal engagement between the two. Before Zimbabwe can rejoin and enjoy the support of the Commonwealth, it will need to satisfy all Commonwealth members it is meeting the basic human rights and governance principles as set out in the Harare Commonwealth declaration. As the dire current situation in Zimbabwe clearly demonstrates, it is a long way from doing so.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been received from South Africa on a joint strategy with the EU for resolving the situation in Zimbabwe. [127730]

Mr. McCartney: None. However, there have been regular discussions between the UK and South Africa about the appalling situation in Zimbabwe.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will hold discussions with *(a)* the South African Development Community and *(b)* EU member states on (i) the use of incentives and disincentives in support of a co-ordinated international strategy on the situation in Zimbabwe and (ii) development of a new constitution, repeal of repressive laws and holding of internationally supervised presidential and parliamentary elections. [127734]

Mr. McCartney: The EU Common Position was renewed in February. It consists of targeted measures applied in response to the human rights abuses committed by the Government of Zimbabwe. We will continue to discuss the situation in Zimbabwe with EU partners in Harare and Brussels. Zimbabwe is a regular subject in the EU's dialogue with the South African Development Community (SADC) and with individual SADC members. However, the SADC has shown no desire to engage with the EU in a co-ordinated international strategy of the kind suggested by the hon. Member. We and the EU will continue to raise the issues with them.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will seek discussions with the South African Development Community on *(a)* a joint strategy on timelines and benchmarks to be met by Zimbabwean authorities in restoring and implementing a democratic process and *(b)* negotiations towards an exit strategy. [127735]

Mr. McCartney: We have encouraged South African Development Community (SADC) member states and in particular members of the SADC troika, (Lesotho, Botswana and Zambia) to urge the Government of Zimbabwe to undertake the wide-ranging political and economic reform to address the current crisis, so as to avoid further violence and economic collapse. We have intensified these contacts in recent days.

HEALTH

Alliance Medical: Screening

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnostic scans were performed through the contract with Alliance Medical in each region in each year since it began; and what proportion this represents of scans agreed in the contract. [126610]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available in the format requested. The total number of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans performed through the contract with Alliance Medical to the end of January 2007 was 214,000. The contract, which is for a period of five years, is for 606,000 MRI scans in total.

Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust: Finance

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department received on the establishment of a local improvement finance trust within the area of the Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust; and if she will make a statement. [126424]

Andy Burnham: The Department have received no representations from Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) about the establishment of their NHS local improvement finance trust (LIFT). Bedfordshire PCT, with their public sector partners, are progressing with establishing their LIFT company. They have selected their preferred partner and are working towards financial close.

Blood: Screening

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make international normalised ratio blood testing a requirement under the GP contract; [124724]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of GP practices which have ceased international normalised ratio blood testing following the introduction of the new GP contract; and if she will make a statement; [124725]

(3) if she will take steps to ensure that the international normalised ratio blood tests are available from GPs; and if she will make a statement. [124726]

Andy Burnham: International normalised ratio blood testing is currently delivered in general practice as part of the national enhanced service which primary care trusts (PCTs) are able to commission as a more specialised service. As these services are commissioned locally by individual PCTs, we have no central information on the number of general practitioner practices providing this service.

Breast Cancer: Medical Treatments

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast cancer treatments have been recommended for use by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence since its creation. [121935]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has positively appraised the following treatments for breast cancer:

Capecitabine for locally advanced and metastatic breast cancer

Docetaxel for early and advanced breast cancer

Gemcitabine for metastatic breast cancer

Hormonal treatments (anastrozole, exemestane and letrozole) for early breast cancer

Paclitaxel for advanced breast cancer

Trastuzumab for early and advanced breast cancer

Vinorelbine for advanced breast cancer

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has *(a)* received and *(b)* considered the Report by the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances into the value of breast cancer screening of over 70s; and if she will make a statement. [124971]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The report into the evidence of extending breast screening to women aged over 70 as part of the national health service breast screening programme was commissioned by the Department's

policy research programme on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening (ACBCS).

The final report is currently being peer reviewed. Once the peer review process is complete the report and peer review comments will be considered by the ACBCS. They will make a judgment as to whether the report provides sufficiently robust evidence to support screening women over 70 or whether further work is necessary. They will advise Ministers as appropriate.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients have been screened under the bowel cancer screening programme, broken down by centre; how many people within the target 60 to 69 age group it is estimated have yet to be screened at each centre; and what the timetable is for completing the first screening within the target age group; [126517]

(2) what plans she has to publish an assessment of the bowel cancer screening programme; [126518]

(3) when each centre began screening for bowel cancer; [126519]

(4) if she will introduce a screening programme for bowel cancer for everyone over 50 years of age. [126520]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is in the table.

As at 19 February 2007, 52 per cent. of men and women had returned their testing kits. This figure is likely to rise as kits are being sent out all the time and there is a time lag between people receiving and returning the kits.

Local screening centres cover populations of around 500,000 people. Men and women in their 60s in these populations are invited to be screened on a general practitioner practice basis over a two year period. For each two year screening round we would expect each local screening centre to invite 50,000 people for screening. It is estimated that full national roll-out of the programme in England will be achieved by December 2009. All eligible men and women will therefore have been invited for screening by December 2011.

The national health service bowel cancer screening programme is in the relatively early stages of roll-out. We will consider publishing an assessment of the programme when roll-out is more complete.

The bowel cancer screening programme is beginning by inviting men and women aged 60 to 69 to be screened as the risk of bowel cancer increases with age, with over 80 per cent. of bowel cancers arising in people who are 60 or over. The successful NHS pilot study also showed that men and women in their 60s were more likely to take up their invitations for screening than men and women in their 50s. Within the programme men and women aged 70 and over are able to self-refer for screening every two years.

When we have rolled out the programme to the whole of England, we will make an assessment of whatever next steps may be required, including looking at the age range.

National health service bowel cancer screening programme—activity to 19 February 2007

		Number of:		
Programme hub	*Local screening centre*	*Invitations sent out to 60 to 69-year -olds*	*People aged 70 and over self-referring for screening*	*Total*
West Midlands and North West (Rugby—started April 2006)	Wolverhampton (started July 2006)	20,581	200	20,781
	Norwich (started July 2006)	21,946	1,616	23,562
	Liverpool (started September 2006)	18,042	264	18,306
	Bolton (started February 2007)	1,050	0	1,050
Southern (Guildford—started September 2006)	South Devon (started September 2006)	11,405	123	11,528
	Gloucestershire (started January 2007)	4,378	128	4,506
London (St. Mark's, Harrow—started October 2006)	St Mark's, Harrow (started October 2006)	12,204	67	12,271
	South West London St. George's—started November 2006)	6,479	77	6,556
North East (Gateshead started February 2007)	South Tyne (started February 2007)	1,897	0	1,897
	Tees (started February 2007)	1,433	0	1,433
Eastern (Nottingham—due to start March 2007)	—	—	—	—
Total		99,415	2,475	101,890

Community Nurses: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* district and *(b)* community nurses were employed by Cumbria Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997. [126860]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified community nursing staff in each specified organisation

Headcount

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Total specified organisations	487	533	529	662	677
Carlisle and District Primary Care Trust total	193	197	205	228	228
District nurses	35	19	31	32	29
Health visitors	30	4	19	34	33
School nursing nurses	[—]	[—]	[—]	13	10
General practitioner practice nurses	59	58	57	59	59

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified community nursing staff in each specified organisation

					Headcount
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Other qualified community services nurses	69	116	98	90	97
Eden Valley PCT Total	104	118	127	150	153
District nurses	9	12	16	28	25
Health visitors	21	1	6	10	9
School nursing nurses	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	4	3
General practitioner practice nurses	35	43	33	39	39
Other qualified community services nurses	39	62	72	69	77
West Cumbria PCT Total	190	218	197	284	296
District nurses	56	46	36	44	39
Health visitors	17	25	14	41	39
School nursing nurses	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	10	8
General practitioner practice nurses	72	78	83	87	80
Other qualified community services nurses	45	69	64	102	130

[1] Not applicable. Returns for school nursing staff did not become mandatory until the 2004 census.
Source: The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were referred to *(a)* district and *(b)* community nurses in Cumbria in each year since 1997. [126863]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Dementia: Research

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Government funding was provided for research into *(a)* prevention, *(b)* treatment and *(c)* cure of dementia in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the health budget this represented in each year. [126835]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The most recent information available is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on dementia research (£ million)

	Department of Health	Medical Research Council	Total	Percentage of total national health service expenditure
2000-01	4.7	8.2	12.9	0.03
2001-02	2.9	6.6	9.5	0.02
2002-03	1.6	6.6	8.2	0.02
2003-04	1.1	7.4	8.5	0.01
2004-05	0.6	6.2	6.8	0.01

The departmental figures relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include the part of the research and development allocations made annually to NHS providers that has been spent on dementia research. This information and information on the breakdown of funding for research into the prevention, treatment and cure of dementia is not held centrally.

Dentists: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* England have exhausted their 2006-07 NHS budgets. [125468]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCT) in England do not award dental providers an annual budget but an annual contract value, which is payable in equal monthly instalments, in return for an agreed level of service. Service levels may be defined by an annual number of units of dental activity (which are a weighted measure of courses of treatment), or they may include service outputs that cannot be measured through courses of treatment. All contract payments will be honoured if the dental provider delivers their agreed service levels. The Department does not assess the performance of individual dental providers. PCTs, as the commissioning bodies, are responsible for monitoring the delivery of services by their local dental providers. Dental services in Eastbourne are the responsibility of the East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT.

Departments: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many independent bodies existed to hear appeals on decisions made by her Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many there have been in 2006-07 to date. [121675]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department had no independent appeal panels.

Appeals against the Department's decisions (final stage complaints) are dealt with by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO).

The Department used the services of an independent reviewer for a single case in 2006.

Executive agencies are independent organisations with their own complaints procedures and administration. The two Executive agencies are the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

PASA has not had any independent bodies to hear appeals. Complaints about maladministration of non-procurement activity are governed by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. Legal options are available to suppliers if commercial complaints are not resolved by PASA's complaints procedure.

Throughout the period between 1997 and 2005, the MHRA had five independent advisory bodies set up to hear appeals on technical decisions made by the agency. These were the Committee on Safety of Devices, the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM), the Medicines Commission (CM) and the Independent Review Panel for Borderline products; the Independent Review Panel for Advertising. In October 2005, the CSM and the MC were disbanded and a new body, the Commission for Human Medicines replaced them.

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were received by her Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have been received in 2006-07 to date. [121674]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department cannot identify complaints figures for 1997-98 and 2001-02 except at disproportionate cost.

Volumes of complaints are calculated by calendar year, not financial year.

There is a separate complaints procedure for complaints involving the national health service and social care. This is completely independent of the Department.

The total number of inquiries dealt with by the head of complaints in 2005 was 339, of which most were not categorised as complaints about the Department and its work. The total for 2006 was 256.

From 1 January 2007 to 26 February we have received five complaints.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) is one of the Department's two Executive agencies. Executive agencies respond to complaints received about their work.

	Number of reports available
1997-98	0
2001-02	4
2005-06	11
2006-07	7

PASA logs as complaints only those where they have a specific issue relating to the performance or specific activity by the agency rather than complaints about policy.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

	Number of reports available
1997-98	2
2001-02	2
2005-06	4
2006-07	3

These are formal complaints that were referred to the central complaints officer to deal with. MHRA does not have records of complaints that were dealt with at local level for these periods.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of monitoring the time spent processing requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the purposes of the proposed fees regulations. [121765]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird) on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 866W.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her Department's total expenditure on centrally funded *(a)* initiatives, *(b)* services and *(c)* special allocations was in each year since 1997-98; and what anticipated expenditure is in 2006-07; [123122]

(2) what the *(a)* titles and *(b)* values are of the programmes which were transferred from her Department's central budget to the NHS budget in each year since 1997. [123129]

Andy Burnham: Tables have been placed in the Library and they provide:

(a) listings of all allocations by budget title and value to national health service organisations from 1997-98 to 2005-06;

(b) total expenditure of the centrally funded, initiatives services and special allocations programme from 1997-98 to 2005-06;

(c) special allocations issued with initial allocations from 1997-98 to 2005-06; and

(d) special allocations and associated budgets issued to NHS organisations as additional allocations (and which are included in the tables described in (a) and (b) above).

There is no recognised division in the centrally funded initiatives services and special allocations programme between initiatives and services.

Full year 2006-07 information on centrally funded initiatives services and special allocations is not yet available, but the 2006-07 Departmental Report which has a provisional publication date of May 2007 will provide a breakdown of the main budget lines.

The tables correct the information given in answer to the hon. Member for the Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1693W.

Dermatology

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* names and *(b)* job titles are of the officials within her Department who have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of dermatology services. [128279]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not have any officials who solely focus on overseeing the delivery of dermatology services. Responsibility for general oversight of the delivery of the Department's public service agreement targets rests with the Department's recovery and support unit. The accountable Director-General is Mr. Duncan Selbie.

Diabetes: Young People

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she issues to *(a)* GPs, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* other health professionals on support for children and students with diabetes. [126554]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national service frameworks (NSFs) for diabetes and for children, young people and maternity services were issued in 2001 and 2003-04 respectively. The diabetes NSF highlights the need to improve diabetes services for children and young people so that all children and young people with diabetes, their families and others

involved in the their day-to-day care are supported; to optimise the control of diabetes and to enhance their physical, psychological, intellectual, educational and social development.

The Department and the Department for Education and Skills issued the joint publication Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings in 2005. It recommends that schools, supported by their local authorities and local health professionals, develop policies on managing medicines and put in place effective management systems to support individual children with medical needs, including diabetes.

A report by the children and young people's diabetes services working group will be published shortly. This will act as an implementation support tool to enable the commissioning and evaluation of service delivery necessary to meet the commitments set out in the NSFs. It includes issues such as support in schools, transition from children's to adults health services, structured education, psychological support, family support and monitoring for complications including retinal screening.

Dietary Supplements

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will press the European Food Standards Agency (EFSA) to extend the maximum permitted derogation period under the food supplement directive for those supplements where EFSA has not completed its assessment of submitted evidence dossiers. [127992]

Caroline Flint: The European Commission (EC) will be contacted shortly regarding the current deadline for European Food Standards Agency to have completed its assessment of dossiers submitted in accordance with the food supplements directive, and for decisions to have been taken by the EC Standing Committee for the addition of substances to the annexes in the food supplements directive, and for this deadline to be reviewed.

Drugs: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was spent in Lancashire on anti-drug initiatives in each of the last 10 years. [125676]

Caroline Flint: Information is not available on drug treatment spend prior to 2001 when the Department and the Home Office commenced the specific allocation for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB)

The table shows the PTB funding allocated to Lancashire in each year since 2002-03, when data were first available.

The following pooled drug treatment budgets were allocated to the Lancashire drug action team (DAT) for the years 2002-07.

	Pooled drug treatment budget allocation to Lancashire DAT (£000)
2002-03	3,061
2003-04	3,890
2004-05	4,259
2005-06	5,161
2006-07	6,633

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate of the numbers of problematic drug users and those accessing treatment formed the basis of the drug pooled treatment budget allocation for 2007-08 in Enfield; and what the latest estimate is following the research commissioned from the University of Glasgow produced in 2006. [119534]

Caroline Flint: In previous years the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB) has been allocated using a formula based on an estimate of population need, linked to social and economic factors, known as the York formula. For 2007-08, the York formula continues to determine the majority of the PTB allocation formula. In 2007-08 the PTB indicative allocations also includes a small element of redistribution from those areas who currently receive a high level of Government contribution to the cost of treatment per person treated, to areas where the contribution is significantly lower. Nationally, this will mean a distribution of funding that is flatter per person treated than has previously been the case. For Enfield, the projected number of individuals in drug treatment in 2006-07 is 604. These figures are based on April to December data from the national drug treatment monitoring system.

The Government contribution per person treated in Enfield in 2006-07 was the second highest in England at £4,191. The contribution per person treated in 2007-08 will be £3,954, compared with the national average of £2,300 and the London average of £2,582.

The latest estimate for problematic drug users in Enfield, from the University of Glasgow data is £1,409. This figure is for problematic users of heroin and crack cocaine only and was not used in the calculations for the 2007-08 PTB.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people underwent drug detoxification within NHS *(a)* run and *(b)* funded facilities in each of the last five years. [122186]

Caroline Flint: The national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS) records the number of individuals in national health service funded treatment in England. During 2004-05, since when this data has been available, there were 5,472 instances of in-patient detoxification reported to NDTMS and during 2005-06 there were 6,461. It is not possible to distinguish NHS run and non-statutory in-patient detoxification services.

Under-reporting of data to NDTMS is significant for in-patient treatment.

Note:

Over half of drug detoxification takes place on general medical or psychiatric wards, which do not contribute data to NDTMS.

Eastbourne Hospital

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated to Eastbourne district general hospital for burns care services in 2007-08. [125469]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Eastbourne district hospital is not a provider of specialised burn care services and therefore there are no plans to allocate any central monies for burn care to this hospital in 2007-08.

The Queen Victoria hospital in East Grinstead acts as the provider of specialised burn care services in the NHS south-east coast region.

Eating Disorders

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take over the next two years to tackle eating disorders. [125164]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We take the issue of eating disorders, especially among young people, very seriously. This is why the Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a clinical guideline on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders, which NICE published in 2004. The guideline covers physical and psychological treatments, treatment with medicines, and information specifically for patients, carers and the general public. The guideline is due for review in January 2008.

In the four years to the end of March 2007, we will have invested over £400 million of additional money into the child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) provided by the national health service and local authorities. These funds will assist in meeting and maintaining the Department's public service agreement (PSA) standard of a comprehensive CAMHS, including services for young people with an eating disorder. Further funds totalling £134 million have been made available to the NHS and local authorities in 2006-07 to help achieve a comprehensive CAMHS in every area by the end of 2006 and ensure that it is maintained thereafter.

As primary care trusts (PCTs) consider local health needs and commissioned services, they will need to assess whether the right balance exists between in-patient care and home-based care, particularly at a highly specialised levels, to help individuals with eating disorders. This means that PCTs will need to consider their commissioning role, where they work with local organisations and opportunities exist to commission services jointly—for example, where voluntary organisations can provide services more effectively than statutory services.

We made a manifesto commitment in 2005 to increase the provision of psychological therapies. This followed 2001 Department guidelines on treatment choice in psychological therapies which included eating disorders, and 2004 guidance, "Organising and Delivering Psychological Therapies", to help local services to understand best practice and how to organise local services to support access. Last year we embarked on a new programme, Improving Access to Psychological Therapies, (IAPT), to provide more effective and timely access to psychological therapies for people with mild to moderate mental health problems, such as anxiety and depression. IAPT's two national demonstration sites in Newham and Doncaster, and a national programme of regional projects, will complete their work by March 2008 but interim results are showing positive gains in health and wellbeing in many of the 3,500 people already referred to the service.

Between 2004 and 2009, the Department is also funding a five-year initiative, Shift, to tackle the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health issues in England. Shift works with young people and professionals to promote awareness of all mental health problems, including eating disorders.

We fund several voluntary sector organisations involved with eating disorders, including Weight Concern and beat, formerly the Eating Disorder Association for whom we are funding a three-year pathways to recovery project, which provides a support network of people who have had eating disorders. This project, which began in June 2006, will receive £131,000 over its three-year duration. The Department is also considering whether we can undertake further research into eating disorders through the National Institute for Health Research, about which I hope to make an announcement in the near future.

Family Planning

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of closure of specialist family planning clinics on the availability to general practitioners of training in contraceptive services. [124018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding arrangements are a matter for primary care trusts who must be free to prioritise their local funding according to local needs. The Government do however acknowledge the key role specialist contraception services play in providing training to other contraceptive providers and in particular the role they play in supporting general practice. We recognise the need to increase the numbers of sexual and reproductive health consultants and the Department is working closely with the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare to ensure workforce capacity is available for the future.

General Practitioners

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which patient and public interest groups responded to the Good Doctors, Safer Patients public consultation. [122123]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1686W, to the hon. Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor).

Health Services: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has carried out a race equality impact assessment of the reductions in budgets for 2007-08 for *(a)* South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, *(b)* Southwark Primary Care Trust and *(c)* Lambeth Primary Care Trust. [128184]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Strategic health authorities (SHAs) should work in partnership with their primary care trusts and local health providers to determine how best to use the funds allocated, to meet national and local priorities for improving health, to tackle health inequalities and modernise services. It is for local national health service bodies to assess the effect of their decisions, including their effect on particular parts of their local population.

All NHS organisations are currently in the process of finalising their financial plans for 2007-08. We have made clear in the 2007-08 NHS operating framework that SHAs will not generally require the scale of contribution to SHA reserves seen in 2006-07 because of the return of the NHS to overall financial balance this year.

Health Services: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff in Lancashire have received training in communication with children. [126622]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the amount the NHS will pay to private healthcare providers in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2012-13. [121782]

Andy Burnham: National health service spend on private healthcare providers will be determined by the choices made by patients and those who commission services locally on their behalf.

As the NHS financial planning process for 2007-08 is not yet complete, it is not yet possible to provide an estimate of this category of expenditure. Funding for the NHS beyond 2007-08 has not yet been agreed with HM Treasury.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the applicability of European competition law to *(a)* the future configuration of clinical services provided by private sector contractors and *(b)* capacity of her Department to intervene in support of such services. [127955]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* We do not believe it would be appropriate for the Department to conduct such an assessment. Whether and if European Union competition law applies to the configuration of clinical services provided by private sector contractors is a matter for the EU authorities.

Heart Disease: Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many major accident and emergency departments in England offer primary angioplasty. [126548]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary angioplasty is carried out in a catheter laboratory by a team of professionals including a cardiologist with training in angioplasty techniques, cardiac nurse and scientific and technical staff. It does not take place in an accident and emergency department although some hospitals have a catheter laboratory, which is situated close to the emergency department.

There are currently about 30 centres able to offer primary angioplasty, and 50 per cent. of these offer a 24 hour a day, seven day a week service. A small number of centres are in hospitals without an emergency department.

Source:

British Cardiovascular Intervention Society audit of angioplasty as at September 2006.

Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to prevent incidents of violence against staff in *(a)* Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull hospitals and *(b)* hospitals nationwide. [125300]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created in April 2003, with both policy and operational responsibility for security management within the national health service. A comprehensive strategy has been implemented detailing the preventative pro-active and reactive action that is to be taken both nationally and locally to tackle this problem.

A network of local security management specialists (LSMS) supported nationally by the NHS SMS guidance, has been introduced, as well as mandatory conflict resolution training for all front line NHS staff, with over 250,000 staff trained by March 2006.

A national physical assault reporting system (PARS) has been developed to monitor and respond to incidents of assault against NHS staff. Using a clear definition as to what constitutes a physical assault, figures for the number of reported assaults against NHS staff 2005-06, released on 1 November 2006, indicate there were 1,690 fewer than 2004-05.

New measures to tackle nuisance and disturbance behaviour on NHS premises have also been proposed and consulted upon. As well as reducing the impact of this behaviour on the delivery of healthcare, the proposed legislation will give health bodies the power to remove an individual displaying this behaviour before an incident may escalate into violence.

Arrangements aimed at the prevention of violence against NHS staff specifically at Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull NHS Trust are made at local level, responding to local requirements.

Hospitals: Transport

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has issued guidance to primary care trusts on how to estimate the carbon impact of changes in travel patterns arising from proposals for hospital reconfiguration. [127668]

Andy Burnham: Any proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally. We would expect the local NHS to take into account a wide variety of issues when putting forward such proposals. There is a well

established and well understood process for managing consultations on proposed changes so that patients, the public and other stakeholders can help to inform the local debate.

Influenza: Drugs

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1552W, on influenza, what the *(a)* site and *(b)* content is of the stockpile of antiviral drugs held by (i) the Government and (ii) the World Health Organisation. [125885]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The United Kingdom Government's stockpile is composed of Oseltamivir. The stock for England is stored in a single location in England and the details of the location have not been made public for security reasons. The stock for each devolved administration has already been distributed to each country.

The World Health Organisation's stockpile is composed of Oseltamivir and is being stored in Hoffman-LaRoche warehouses located in Switzerland and the United States of America.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1552-53W, on influenza, if she will take steps to ensure that the preparedness of countries where humans have died from infection with avian influenza is brought up to at least the level that exists in the UK. [125886]

Ms Rosie Winterton: International collaboration offers the best opportunity to improve preparedness internationally. The United Kingdom (UK) will continue to work closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the European Community and other bilateral and multi-national groups in this regard. In particular at the European Community, World Bank and People's Republic of China pledging conference on avian and pandemic influenza in Beijing in January 2006, the UK pledged $35 million (£20 million), with the aim of improving international preparedness and response.

Maternity Services

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on childbirth and maternity care by her Department in the latest year for which figures are available. [126048]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Estimates of expenditure on childbirth and maternity care are available from the programme budgeting returns. In the 2005-06 financial year expenditure on maternity and reproductive health was estimated at £2.9 billion, with a further £0.8 billion spent on treating neonatal conditions.

Maudsley Hospital

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has carried out a race equality impact assessment of the decision to close the Maudsley Hospital 24 hour emergency clinic; and if she will make a statement. [128185]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The Department did not carry out a race equality impact assessment of the Secretary of State's decision to support national health service proposals to reconfigure mental health crisis services in Southwark and Lambeth, which included the closure of the emergency clinic (EC) at the Maudsley hospital.

A race equality impact assessment of the proposed closure of the EC was carried out at local level by the South London and Maudsley NHS trust in the autumn of 2006. In summary, the assessment did not demonstrate that closure of the EC would have an adverse impact upon service users from black and minority ethnic communities.

Mental Health

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* oral questions and *(b)* written questions to her in the last session of Parliament were about mental health issues. [127374]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The term mental health covers a wide range of topics and these cannot be identified separately from our data base without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mentally ill: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will discuss with the Home Secretary the number of anti-social behaviour orders given to people with mental health conditions. [124311]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected centrally about the characteristics or circumstances of persons issued with antisocial behaviour orders, so it is not known how many were issued to people with mental health problems.

However, the 2006 Home Office guidance, "Bigger, Better, Bolder", includes information on vulnerable people who commit antisocial behaviour. This makes it clear that, where there is evidence to suggest that a perpetrator of antisocial behaviour has a disability, learning disability, mental health problem, or is vulnerable in any other way then a practitioner with specialist knowledge should be involved in an assessment of the cause of the behaviour and how it can be addressed. The guidance calls for specialist involvement in the design of any intervention so this can be properly tailored to the needs of individuate and their carers.

The Department and the Home Office have regular discussions on a range of issues and areas of concern.

Mid-Essex Hospital Trust: Redundancy

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many job losses are expected through *(a)* compulsory redundancies and *(b)* not filling vacancies at the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust in the period 2006 to 2008; and how many of these job losses will be (i) nurses, (ii) doctors and (iii) consultants. [127533]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Midwives

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the status is of her Department's six-point plan for the recruitment and retention of NHS midwives; what the total expenditure on the plan has been to date; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the plan; and what future activity is planned. [122627]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The six-point plan, developed in partnership with the Royal College of Midwives, was launched by the Government in March 2004.

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Workforce Development Confederation were responsible for the implementation of the plan, as part of the National Midwifery Recruitment, Retention and Return Project, which they led between 2003 and November 2007. They were given £200,000 to support the delivery of the project.

Strategic health authorities will be sent project reports, outlining the effectiveness and recommending future action, for their specific area.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors are taken into account in estimating the average caseload of community midwives. [127930]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Decisions about the size of community midwives' case loads are made locally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local stakeholders to commission services in order to meet the specific needs of the local community.

The maternity standard of the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services requires national health service maternity care providers and PCTs to ensure that there is a range of ante-natal, birth and post-birth care services available locally.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant midwives there are in the NHS in England, broken down by region; and whether her Department has a target for the number of NHS consultant midwives. [122635]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number of national health service consultant midwives by strategic health authority (SHA) area.

The Department has not set a target for the number of NHS consultant midwives.

NHS consultant midwives by SHA area as at 30 September 2005

SHA area	*Headcount*
England	*51*
North East	2
North West	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	5
East Midlands	3
West Midlands	1
East of England	1
London	20
South East Coast	2
South Central	7

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census

National Patient Safety Agency

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the absence from work of the joint chief executives of the National Patient Safety Agency. [121428]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The joint chief executives of the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) began a period of extended leave on 7 July 2006 and an interim chief executive was appointed on 31 July 2006. The agency has continued to deliver the work programme for 2006-07 that it agreed with the Department.

The joint chief executives are due to retire on 31 March 2007 and the NPSA is currently in the process of recruiting a permanent chief executive.

NHS: Finance

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when there was last a national target for the level of administrative costs in the NHS; and what that level was. [123115]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS plan stated that

"by 2004 the share of NHS spend on management costs will be cut so that a higher share of every pound spent goes into frontline patient care".

As a percentage of the overall national health service budget management costs have fallen from 3.9 per cent. in 2002-03 to 3.7 per cent. in 2004-05, continuing the downward trend from 5 per cent. in 1997-98.

In addition, the £250 million that will be released as a result of the recent re-organisation of the NHS will be returned directly into frontline services. Managers however will remain a key part of the NHS workforce in supporting clinical care and delivering improvements in waiting times and the accessibility of services.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of payment by results on hospitals in the NHS. [127281]

Andy Burnham: Information about the programme of evaluation of payment by results is available on the Department website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/FinanceAndPlanning/NHSFinancialReforms

The programme includes work done by national health service organisations in South Yorkshire, where most trusts were early implementers of payment by results, as well as specific research projects undertaken by the Centre For Health Economics at York university. We have also commissioned an independent evaluation of the implementation of payment by results from the Health Economics Research Unit at the university of Aberdeen, supported by the university of Dundee and the Office of Health Economics in London. This project began in December 2004 and is due to be completed this summer.

NHS: Foreign Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-UK nationals work for the NHS as *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses. [122473]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for delaying the publication of the NHS workforce census. [123139]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Information Centre for health and social care had planned to publish the workforce census in March 2007. It will now be published in April 2007.

This is because the reorganisation of primary care trusts (PCTs), which took place on 1 October 2006, has impacted on the collection process. Data have been provided by PCTs in different formats and this has required extensive validation (of the quality of data submitted), to ensure consistency with previous years. In many instances new staff within PCTs have been involved in this process, which has led to delays

In addition over 200 organisations have submitted workforce data through the new national payroll system, the electronic staff record (ESR). Additional data validation has been undertaken to ensure that in the first year of deriving census information from this source, it is of at least equivalent quality to that previously collected directly from trusts and PCTs.

The Information Centre for health and social care is working with the Department to review systems for collecting workforce information and looking at ways of building on the development of the ESR. When the ESR is fully rolled out across the national health service in 2008 this should enable comprehensive workforce data to be available more quickly and frequently.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* employment of temporary staff and *(b)* local area weighting allowances by each hospital acute trust and foundation hospital trust in 2005-06. [126378]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information has been placed in the Library. This shows expenditure by each national health service trust on salaries and wages of non-NHS staff and medical and dental London weighting in 2005-06.

NHS: Public Relations

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS hospitals trust spent on public affairs support from private companies in the last 12 months. [127609]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held by the Department.

NHS: Secondments

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration primary care trusts are required to give to the possible effects of secondments of staff for training purposes on the provision of *(a)* front-line services and *(b)* numbers of available beds before approving those secondments. [122648]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Agreeing secondments is a local decision and will depend on both the financial and staff resource available to continue to deliver current service requirements. Properly managed secondments can deliver appropriate training and development needs for staff.

NHS: Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that health authorities and trusts collect adequate data on the involvement of staff in work-based learning; [123403]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that rates of participation in work-based learning are consistent across the different grades of NHS staff. [123404]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is a matter for local employers and strategic health authorities. Training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses. Employers have a duty to ensure staff have the appropriate education and training to deliver priorities and services.

Access to training courses or learning opportunities in the workplace is a local decision.

Nurses: Schools

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many school nurses were employed in each health region in England in each of the last three years; [124382]

(2) how many school nurses there are in each health region in England. [124891]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of school nurses employed in each health region is shown in the table. School nurses have only been separately identified robustly in the national health service workforce census since 2004.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2004		2003	
	Qualified school nursing nurses	*Of which: qualified school nurses*[1]	*Qualified school nursing nurses*	*Of which: qualified school nurses*[1]
England	2,409	856	2,887	943
North East Strategic Health Authority area	145	64	164	61
North West Strategic Health Authority area	468	157	471	192
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	303	115	402	132

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2004		2005	
	Qualified school nursing nurses	*Of which: qualified school nurses*[1]	*Qualified school nursing nurses*	*Of which: qualified school nurses*[1]
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	230	38	255	34
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	185	110	264	110
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	186	71	287	50
London Strategic Health Authority area	363	131	471	160
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	180	82	203	97
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	111	45	117	33
South West Strategic Health Authority area	238	43	253	66

[1] Qualified school nurses hold the NMC specialist practice qualification with an outcome in school nursing, which is a recordable qualification on the NMC register. School nursing nurses have only been collected from 2004 as a separate category. *Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Obesity: Children

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to encourage the NHS to provide fitness regimes for obese children; and how this will be funded. [127580]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children in December 2006, which contained a series of recommendations across a wide range of sectors including the national health service. NICE recommend that obesity treatment and prevention interventions in the NHS should be long-term and must be multi-component rather than one-off activities. These programmes should include behaviour change strategies to increase people's physical activity levels or decrease inactivity, improve eating behaviour and the quality of the person's diet and reduce energy intake.

Operating Theatres

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many operations were conducted in each operating theatre in England in each of the last five years; how many hours per week each theatre was in use in each year; and what the net cost per theatre hour used was in each year; [124110]

(2) how many operations were conducted in England in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority; how many hours per week on average an operating theatre was in use in each authority in each year; and what the net cost per theatre hour used in each authority was in each year. [124390]

Andy Burnham: Tables showing the numbers of procedures conducted in England in each of the last five years, by strategic health authority, have been placed in the Library. The rest of the information requested is not available centrally.

Ophthalmology: Training

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors were taken into account in deciding not to provide continuing educational training for dispensing opticians in the review of general ophthalmic services. [126279]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service provides a contribution to the cost of continuing education and training for professions whose income derives in part from providing NHS services. Under deregulatory changes approved by Parliament in 1986, the NHS provides optical vouchers to certain eligible groups to assist in buying glasses or contact lenses, but the dispensing of glasses is carried out on a private basis. The Department considers that these arrangements work well in promoting choice and access to services and that it would be anomalous to use public funds to make continuing education and training payments to health care professionals who do not provide services under contract to the NHS.

Paediatrics: Vetting

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paediatricians working in hospitals in England have an up-to-date Criminal Records Bureau certificate clearing them to work with children. [122911]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of individual employers to carry out Criminal Records Bureau checks when employing any staff working with children, including paediatricians, in order to satisfy themselves that they are safe to carry out this type of work. NHS Employers provides guidance to employers on this matter.

Paramedical Staff: Manpower

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paramedics there were in each year since 2000; and what the projected numbers are in each year to 2010. [123263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the number of paramedics in the national health service in England since 2000.

It is for local planners with support from the workforce review team to determine their future requirement for paramedics to meet local service needs.

NHS hospital and community health services: paramedic staff 2000-05

Paramedic	*Headcount*
2000	6,790
2001	7,075
2002	7,147
2003	7,241
2004	7,536
2005	8,311

Source: NHS non medical census

Patients: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of expenditure by her Department on *(a)* male and *(b)* female patients aged (i) 0 to 5, (ii) 5 to 9, (iii) 10 to 14, (iv) 15 to 20, (v) 21 to 25, (vi) 26 to 30, (vii) 31 to 40, (viii) 41 to 50, (ix) 51 to 60, (x) 61 to 70, (xi) 71 to 80 and (xii) over 80, excluding costs relating to maternity care and childbirth, in the latest year for which figures are available. [126049]

Andy Burnham: The table shows the breakdown by age and gender of total hospital and community health services (HCHS) expenditure for the year 2003-04, excluding costs relating to maternity care and childbirth.

The age groups from the programme budget differ to those requested.

2003-04 is the latest year this data is available. Due to a change in national programme budgeting categories from 2004-05 onwards, we no longer collect HCHS expenditure data broken down by age and gender.

HCHS expenditure by age group and gender, 2003-04, millions

Age group	*0-4*	*5-15*	*16-44*	*45-64*	*65-74*	*75-84*	*85+*	*Total*
Expenditure (£ million)	2,376	1,461	9,245	7,021	5,890	6,763	3,818	36,574
Of which:								
Male	1,217	749	4,632	3,470	2,783	2,740	1,090	17,873
Female	1,160	712	4,613	3,551	3,107	4,022	2,727	18,701

Notes:
1. Figures in table may not sum due to rounding.
2. The total HCHS expenditure in 2003-04 was £38,151 million. The difference of £1,577 million is attributable to maternity care and childbirth.

Pneumococcal Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding she is providing for catch-up immunisation against paediatric pneumococcal disease in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [127829]

Caroline Flint: For the catch-up immunisation programme, general practitioners are being remunerated £7.51 as an item of service payment for each child vaccinated as defined in Statement of Financial Entitlements (Amendments) (No. 6) Direction 2006. Funding for the vaccination programme has been distributed to the national health service as part of the roll out of the 2006-07 central programme budgets.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the success of the catch-up programme in immunising children against paediatric pneumococcal disease. [127830]

Caroline Flint: Following the introduction of pneumococcal vaccine into the routine childhood immunisation programme, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is undertaking enhanced surveillance of pneumococcal disease in children. These data are available on the HPA website. The data show that cases of invasive pneumococcal disease, caused by serotypes against which the vaccine protects, are beginning to fall in younger children.

Primary Health Care: Eastern Region

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to the East of England Deanery NHS in each year since 1997 to provide postgraduate training in the primary care sector; and if she will make a statement. [122822]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Skin Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of skin cancer cases attributable to the use of sun beds by people under the age of 18 years; and what steps she is taking to limit the use of sun beds by under-18s. [124261]

Caroline Flint: Information is not held centrally on the proportion of skin cancer cases attributable to the use of sunbeds by under 18-year-olds.

SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the United Kingdom Health Departments, supports health promotion events, and includes in their printed resources and on the SunSmart website information to promote awareness of the risks to health associated with the use of sunbeds, including use by minors.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines also recommend that sunbeds should not be used by young people and that the part of the guidelines providing advice for customers should be made available to the public at sunbed establishments. The Department and the HSE are in discussion about a review of the guidelines and whether they need to be strengthened.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to skin cancer education awareness. [124262]

Caroline Flint: The Department and the other United Kingdom health departments commission Cancer Research UK to run SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign. The SunSmart campaign includes raising both public and professional awareness of skin cancer through providing information about it and guidance on preventative measures to reduce the risks associated with skin cancer. The campaign raises awareness through support for health promotion events, the provision of printed resources, media briefings and through the SunSmart website. The Department contribution to the funding for the financial year 2007-08 will be £104,000.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the number and (ii) children's unsupervised use of coin-operated unstaffed sunbed salons; [126137]

(2) what assessment she has made of the therapeutic value of sunbed use. [126138]

Caroline Flint: Excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation, both natural and artificial, is the most important modifiable risk factor for skin cancer. The Government do not advise people to avoid the sun entirely but to enjoy it safely and prevent sunburn. Similarly they advise against the use of sunbeds for cosmetic purposes but they recognise the right of individuals to make informed choices.

The possible need for information about the number and distribution of coin-operated sunbeds, and the scale of any sunbed use by minors, is one factor that the Department has considered as part of its review of options for the regulation of such sunbeds.

Skin Cancer: Charities

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support her Department offers to skin cancer health campaigning initiatives by charities; and if she will make a statement. [126587]

Ms Rosie Winterton: SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign which is run by the charity Cancer Research UK, receives funding from the Department and the other United Kingdom Health Departments. The campaign provides resources and information for health promotion events, and the SunSmart website also provides a valuable information resource for those interested in promoting health and preventing skin cancer.

Smoking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the percentage of adults aged 16 and over who smoked in each year since 1977, broken down by gender. [127833]

Caroline Flint: Information on smoking prevalence for those aged 16 and over is available from the general household survey. The following table shows the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults, by gender in England, from 1978 to 2005, the earliest and latest years for which these data are available.

Prevalence of cigarette smoking in adults[1] by gender, 1978 to 2005, England

Percentage

	All adults	Men	Women
Unweighted			
1978	40	44	36
1982	35	37	32
1986	32	34	31
1990	29	31	28
1992	28	29	27
1994	26	28	25
1996	28	28	27
1998	27	28	26
Weighted			
1998	28	29	26
2000	27	29	25
2001	27	28	25
2002	26	27	25
2003	25	27	24
2004	25	26	23
2005[2]	24	25	23

Prevalence of cigarette smoking in adults[1] by gender, 1978 to 2005, England

Percentage

	All adults	Men	Women
Weighted bases 2005 (000)[3]	35,936	16,834	19,102
Unweighted bases 2005[3]	18,613	8,663	9,950

[1] Aged 16 and over
[2] 2005 data include last quarter of 2004-05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year
[3] Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in GHS reports for each year.
Source:
General Household Survey 2005, Office for National Statistics

Sonographers: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sonographers were employed by the NHS in each of the last five years; how many sonographers were newly-registered in each year; how many sonographers are in training; and if she will make a statement on the future funding of training for sonographers. [126571]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The Department does not collect central data on workforce numbers for sonographers employed by the national health service.

The Society and College of Radiographers do hold some data on sonographer workforce numbers, however these only represent those people who choose to register with the society.

Sonography is not commissioned nationally and it is for each NHS trust to make a case to its strategic health authority for funding to cover costs of training.

Special Advisers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the notices of external employment given by her special advisers in the past 12 months. [108616]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The rules for civil servants, including special advisers, who wish to take up other employment in addition to their civil service duties are set out in section 4.3 of the Civil Service Management Code. Such information is not normally made public. There are no plans to create a public register of interests for special advisers.

Tuberculosis: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1977W, on tuberculosis in Greater London, if she will break down the figures by nationality of the patient. [127254]

Caroline Flint: Information on the nationality of tuberculosis patients is not collected centrally, although information is collected on country of birth. Because of the small numbers of cases reported by most countries of birth for individual boroughs, and the consequent risk of deductive disclosure, the following table provides aggregated data for the London region.

Country of birth	Number of cases reported in 2005
Afghanistan	53
Albania	<10
Algeria	<10
Angola	16
Antigua and Barbuda	<10
Australia	<10
Bahrain	<10
Bangladesh	120
Belgium	<10
Bolivia	<10
Brazil	<10
Bulgaria	<10
Burundi	<10
Cameroon	<10
Canada	<10
Central Africa	<10
China	30
Colombia	<10
Congo	39
Cote d'Ivoire	12
Cuba	<10
Cyprus	<10
Dominica	<10
Ecuador	<10
Egypt	<10
Equatorial Guinea	<10
Eritrea	32
Ethiopia	33
France	<10
Gabon	<10
Gambia	<10
Georgia	<10
Germany	<10
Ghana	40
Greece	<10
Grenada	<10
Guinea	<10
Guyana	<10
Hungary	<10
India	474
Indonesia	<10
Iran, Islamic Republic of	13
Ireland	26
Italy	<10
Jamaica	33
Kenya	86
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	<10
Kuwait	<10
Lebanon	<10
Lesotho	<10
Liberia	<10
Lithuania	<10
Malawi	<10
Malaysia	13
Malta	<10
Mauritania	<10
Mauritius	<10
Mexico	<10
Mongolia	<10
Morocco	12
Mozambique	<10
Myanmar	<10
Namibia	<10
Nepal	21
New Zealand	<10
Niger	<10
Nigeria	104
Pakistan	221
Palestinian Territory, occupied	<10
Peru	<10
Philippines	28
Poland	<10
Portugal	15
Qatar	<10
Romania	<10
Russian Federation	<10
Rwanda	<10
Saudi Arabia	<10
Serbia and Montenegro	<10
Sierra Leone	32
Singapore	<10
Solomon Islands	<10
Somalia	404
South Africa	51
Spain	<10
Sri Lanka	69
Sudan	<10
Swaziland	<10
Sweden	<10
Tajikistan	<10
Tanzania	11
Thailand	11
Togo	<10
Trinidad and Tobago	<10
Tunisia	<10
Turkey	25
Uganda	77
United Kingdom	589
United States	<10
Uzbekistan	<10
Vietnam	23
West Indies	<10
Yemen	<10
Zambia	21
Zimbabwe	61
Country of birth not reported	450
Total	3,479

Note:
Numbers of cases fewer than 10 are not provided by country of birth because of the risk of deductive disclosure.
Source:
Health Protection Agency Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance.

Urology: Medical Treatments

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans her Department has to assist people with urology, continence and stoma problems in obtaining alternative service providers in the event that their current providers exceed the prescribed number of items they are allowed to dispense; [128099]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the impact on service providers of changes proposed

recently by her Department to services for people with urology, continence and stoma problems; [128100]

(3) which organisations her Department consulted concerning proposals to change services for people with urology, continence and stoma problems; and what representations she has received on the adequacy of the consultation. [128101]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are currently consulting on changes to the payment process for items and services related to stoma and incontinence appliances within part IX of the Drug Tariff. Interested parties wishing to comment on these proposals can do so until the deadline of 2 April 2007.

As this consultation process is ongoing, no decisions, or plans on changes to services for stoma and incontinence appliances have been finalised.

It is not meaningful to provide a list of organisations consulted, or representations on the adequacy of the consultation process, until the consultation process has ended.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which individuals were sent copies of the draft guidelines on termination of pregnancy in Northern Ireland; what the cost was per copy of the guidelines; and for what reason the draft guidelines were not subject to public consultation. [119961]

Paul Goggins: The draft "Guidance on Termination of Pregnancy in Northern Ireland" was issued to interested parties in January 2007. A list of consultees has been provided.

Costs were limited to photocopying and postage costs met out of general departmental administrative expenditure. The Department decided to conduct a limited consultation on this guidance as there is no change in the law in NI and the document covers the clinical aspect of the issue.

List of consultees

1. Family Planning Association
2. Life
3. Precious Life
4. Doctors for Life
5. Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child
6. Northern Catholic Bishops
7. Church Forum
8. Workshop members
9. Chief executives of HSS Boards and Trusts
10. Chief executives of four Health and Social Care Councils
11. NI Executive of Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
12. Royal College of Psychiatrists
13. Royal College of General Practitioners
14. Chief executive of the new Health and Social Services Authority
15. Royal College of Nursing
16. Royal College of Midwifery
17. MLAs (party leaders and health representatives only)
18. Law Society for NI
19. The Bar Council
20. NI Family Planning Doctors Association
21. NI Medical And Dental Training Agency.

Note:

2-6 of the organisations were permitted to intervene in the judicial review.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate his Department has made of the number of abortions that will be performed in Northern Ireland each year once the draft guidelines on termination of pregnancy in Northern Ireland have been implemented; whether additional funding is being made available to health authorities in Northern Ireland to implement the draft guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [119964]

Paul Goggins: There is no change to the abortion law in Northern Ireland. The draft guidance restates the current law regarding termination of pregnancy in Northern Ireland and provides clinical guidance on the issue.

Avian Influenza

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to protect the poultry industry in Northern Ireland following the reported outbreak of an H5N1 virus infection in Suffolk; and whether the Northern Ireland Influenza Pandemic Control Committee met in relation to the latest outbreak. [120232]

David Cairns: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) keeps the risk of Avian Influenza (AI) under constant review. The Department has a range of preventive measures in place, which are ongoing, to address the risk of AI entering Northern Ireland and to stop it spreading in poultry. Wild bird surveillance is under way this winter throughout Northern Ireland and to date no highly pathogenic H5N1 AI has been found here. A NI Bird Register is in place to gather essential information about poultry, game and other captive birds for the purposes of risk assessment, disease prevention and control. DARD has issued extensive guidance to bird keepers on biosecurity measures to protect their birds, including on how to plan for housing birds in the event of an outbreak. This is also available on the DARD website.

Following the outbreak of H5N1 AI in Suffolk, DARD has reviewed the level of risk and has put in place some additional precautionary measures. These include the introduction of a number of trade restrictions including new general and specific licensing arrangements, and a ban on the movement of birds from Great Britain to attend bird gatherings and pigeon races here. The Department has also reiterated to bird keepers the importance of good biosecurity measures to minimise the risk to their birds. The Department continues to liaise closely with Defra to monitor developments, and also maintains very close contact with the Department of Agriculture and Food in the Republic of Ireland. The Department will continue to keep the situation under constant review and the need for additional measures in proportion to the level of risk.

The Department has a contingency plan in place for use in the event of an outbreak here to contain and eradicate H5N1 AI if it does occur here.

H5N1 avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds. Transmission to humans in contact with poultry/other birds occurs rarely and to date has occurred almost exclusively in people with very close physical contact with infected birds. The Northern Ireland Pandemic Influenza Control Committee (NIPICC) is concerned with contingency planning for, and management of, a pandemic of human influenza. As such NIPICC does not have a role in reviewing/managing an outbreak of avian influenza and hence has not met in relation to the most recent H5N1 outbreak in Suffolk.

Burglary

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidences of domestic burglary were recorded in each Police Service of Northern Ireland district command unit area in each of the last 12 months; and how many people were apprehended for this crime over the same period. [125041]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 outlines the number of domestic burglaries recorded and cleared, by district command unit (DCU), during period 1 February 2006 to 31 January 2007. The PSNI do not collate statistics by the number of persons apprehended.

Table 2 sets out details of the number of persons arrested for domestic burglary by DCU during the period 1 February 2006 to 31 January 2007. We have included this second table as it sets out the number of arrests per custody suite and not DCU as this is how it is recorded at present as not all DCU's have custody suites.

Table 1: Domestic burglaries recorded and cleared by district command unit—1 February 2006 to 31 January 2007

District command unit	*Recorded*	*Cleared*
Antrim	174	12
Ards	139	13
Armagh	275	43
Ballymena	221	20
Ballymoney	42	0
Banbridge	172	5
Carrickfergus	105	8
Castlereagh	253	18
Coleraine	147	18
Cookstown	46	6
Craigavon	385	19
Down	256	36
Dungannon and S. Tyrone	154	17
East Belfast	379	29
Fermanagh	143	11
Foyle	469	74
Larne	78	10
Limavady	94	13
Lisburn	667	44
Magherafelt	58	6
Moyle	39	9
Newry and Mourne	367	24
Newtownabbey	316	24
North Belfast	489	48
North Down	240	31
Omagh	86	9

Table 1: Domestic burglaries recorded and cleared by district command unit—1 February 2006 to 31 January 2007

District command unit	*Recorded*	*Cleared*
South Belfast	702	107
Strabane	57	12
West Belfast	337	37
Total	6,890	703

Note:
Figures are provisional and as such are liable to revision.
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Table 2: Persons arrested for domestic burglary 1 February 2006-31 January 2007

District command unit	*Number*
Antrim	58
Ards	51
Armagh	18
Ballymena	34
Banbridge	27
Belfast East	62
Belfast North	123
Belfast South	102
Belfast West	107
Coleraine	64
Cookstown	26
Craigavon	22
Down	66
Dungannon and South Tyrone	14
Fermanagh	16
Foyle	96
Limavady	22
Lisburn	56
Newry and Mourne	8
Omagh	23
Strabane	27
Total	1,022

Departments: Correspondence

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters were *(a)* sent and *(b)* received by his Department in each of the last 12 months. [120037]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office does not hold the information for all letters centrally and could only provide the information at a disproportionate cost.

The Department collates information for public letters and ministerial correspondence for the annual departmental report, as part of the six national standards for central Government which were introduced to the Department and its executive agencies from April 1997.

The first two standards are to answer (1) letters from the general public and (2) ministerial correspondence quickly and clearly, within a departmental target of 15 working days. Performance for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 was as follows:

	Number of letters received	Percentage in target
NIO Core	1,259	73
Northern Ireland Prison Service	1,588	92
Forensic Science Northern Ireland	92	98
The Compensation Agency	13,506	92
Public Prosecution Service for NI	549	97
Youth Justice Agency	455	100

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in (i) his Department and (ii) each agency of the Department in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [123918]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office does not hold the information centrally on involuntary and voluntary exit schemes since 1997and could provide the information only at a disproportionate cost. There is no planned spend for involuntary exit schemes in 2007-08. Voluntary exit scheme costs are generally met as a result of staff not being replaced and are infrequent.

Dogs: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dogs classified as dangerous under the relevant dangerous dogs legislation were signed over for humane destruction in Northern Ireland in each district council area in each of the past six months, broken down by breed of dog involved. [120442]

David Cairns: Local councils provide statistical information to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), with respect to enforcement of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (as amended). The information is provided on a quarterly basis and includes the number of dogs destroyed under the legislation.

The number of dogs handed in for humane destruction from March 2006 is detailed in the following table. From the information provided to DARD by local councils, it is understood that the dogs involved were all pit bull types. As these figures are incomplete and do not include details for all councils for the last quarter of 2006, I will write directly to the hon. Member with the complete data as soon as they become available.

Prohibited dogs handed in to local councils for humane destruction

	Quarter ending:			
Council	31 June 2006	31 September 2006	31 December 2006	Total
Antrim	5	0	0	5
Ards	0	0	[1]—	0
Armagh[1]	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	4	5	0	9
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0
Banbridge[1]	0	0	[1]—	0

Prohibited dogs handed in to local councils for humane destruction

	Quarter ending:			
Council	31 June 2006	31 September 2006	31 December 2006	Total
Belfast	9	5	9	23
Carrick	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh[1]	1	0	[1]—	1
Coleraine[1]	0	0	[1]—	0
Cookstown[1]	0	0	[1]—	0
Craigavon	0	0	0	0
Derry[1]	0	0	[1]—	0
Down	0	0	0	0
Dungannon	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0
Larne[1]	1	0	[1]—	1
Limavady	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	14	0	0	14
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0
Moyle[1]	0	0	[1]—	0
Newry	0	0	0	0
Newtownabbey[1]	0	0	[1]—	0
North Down	0	0	0	0
Omagh[1]	0	0	[1]—	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0
Total	34	10	9	53

[1] Figures for final quarter of 2006 are not yet available.
Source:
Figures supplied to DARD by district councils.

Domestic Wastes

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1258W, on domestic wastes, if he will name the suppliers that the three district councils used to insert microchips in the bins. [128621]

David Cairns: The three district councils in Northern Ireland which have claimed grant from the Waste Management Grant Scheme against the costs of "bin chipping" are: Craigavon, Newtownabbey and North Down.

The suppliers used by Craigavon and Newtownabbey were Manvik, and the suppliers used by North Down were AMCS/Waste Management Solutions.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1258W, on domestic wastes, on what date funding was given for the installation of microchips in the bins. [128622]

David Cairns: Grant claimed for costs involved in the installation of "bin chips" was issued as follows:

Craigavon—November 2006;

Newtownabbey—March 2006 and May 2006; and

North Down—October 2006

Drug Seizures

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what drugs seizures took place in each Northern Ireland prison in each of the last three years, broken down by drug type seized. [126944]

Paul Goggins: The following tables provide the information requested:

January to December 2004

	Maghaberry	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank*
Cannabis	424.9 grams	156.8 grams	151.4 grams
Diazepam	236.5 tablets	79 tablets	—
Temazepam	73 tablets	21 tablets	34 tablets
Heroin	12 tablets	—	—
Valium	9 tablets	11 tablets	—
Amphetamines	60 tablets	5 tablets	—
	16.8 grams	3.1 grams	
Ecstasy	10 tablets	60 tablets	20 tablets
Steroids	116.5 tablets	755 tablets	2 vials
		40 mills	
Prescription	80 tablets	8 tablets	54 tablets
Unidentified	545 tablets	43 tablets	6 vials
Cocaine	10 tablets	—	—
LSD	2 tablets	—	—
Viagra	—	—	2 tablets
Opium	—	—	—
Barbiturate	—	—	—

January to December 2005

	Maghaberry	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank*
Cannabis	303.3 grams	185. 2 grams	286.7 grams
Diazepam	408.5 tablets	—	38. 5 tablets
Temazepam	28 tablets	—	31.5 tablets
Heroin	19.6 grams	—	13 tablets
Valium	1 tablet	—	—
Amphetamines	5 tablets	—	—
Ecstasy	1 tablet	—	15 tablets
Steroids	174 tablets	10 tablets	3 vials
	3 vials		
Prescription	—	—	—
Unidentified	263 tablets	42 tablets	50.5 tablets
Cocaine	1 gram	—	—
LSD	—	—	—
Viagra	—	—	—
Opium	2 tablets	—	—
Barbiturate	—	—	2 grams

January to December 2006

	Maghaberry	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank*
Cannabis	316.7 grams	57.3 grams	30.35 grams
Diazepam	465 tablets	200 tablets	15 tablets
Temazepam	37 tablets	—	4 tablets
Heroin	3.9 grams	—	—
	5 tablets		
Valium	39 tablets	—	—
Amphetamines	35 tablets	—	—
Ecstasy	25 tablets	—	—
Steroids	64 tablets	—	—
	3.1 grams		
Prescription	434 tablets	96 tablets	29 tablets
Unidentified	534.5 tablets	223.5 tablets	2 tablets
		10.1 grams	
Cocaine	—	—	—
LSD	12.7 grams	—	—
Viagra	—	—	—
Opium	—	—	—
Barbiturate	—	—	—

Firearms: Crime

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the number of illegally-held weapons in circulation in Northern Ireland. [123538]

Paul Goggins: As any estimate about the number of illegally-held weapons in Northern Ireland would be based on intelligence, it would be inappropriate to publish this information.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the progress being made towards the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety waiting times targets within each health trust area in Northern Ireland; and whether he expects the targets to be met in each case. [128130]

Paul Goggins: I have set targets that, by the end of March 2007, no patient should be waiting more than six months for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment and no more than six months for inpatient or daycase treatment.

All trusts have made excellent progress since April 2006 and I am confident that both targets will be achieved at the end of March.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people died whilst waiting for treatment on the NHS in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years, broken down by health trust area; and what the length of wait was in each case. [128133]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available.

Macular Degeneration

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland *(a)* have wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD), *(b)* were diagnosed with wet AMD in each of the last five years and *(c)* he estimates will be diagnosed with wet AMD in the next 12 months. [126320]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department does not collect figures on the number of people who have wet age-related macular degeneration in Northern Ireland.

(b) The number of people diagnosed with wet age-related macular degeneration is not available. Information is available only on the number of admissions[1] to hospital, where the patient had a diagnosis of wet age-related macular degeneration.

The following table shows the number of admissions[1] in Northern Ireland, during each year between 2001-02 and 2005-06 (the latest year for which figures are available), where at least one of the diagnoses was wet age-related macular degeneration.

	Admissions[1]
2001-02	270
2002-03	369
2003-04	359
2004-05	472
2005-06	438

[1] Discharges and deaths are used as an approximation to admissions.
Source:
Hospital In-patient System.

The only treatment currently available to patients suffering from wet age-related macular degeneration on the NHS is photodynamic therapy. Patients for whom photodynamic therapy is not appropriate have two options:

1. They can be reviewed as out-patients because they may become eligible for photodynamic therapy should their condition change; and

2. They will be offered low vision support—for example, fitted with specialist glasses.

Other drug therapies do exist which are yet to be approved by NICE and financially approved by commissioners.

(c) The number of people who will be diagnosed with wet age-related macular degeneration in the next 12 months is not available.

Motor Vehicles: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the criteria used to determine the location of mobile vehicle licence detection units take account of the estimated rate of licence evasion in various parts of Northern Ireland. [120874]

David Cairns: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland (DVLNI) treats Northern Ireland as one area for the detection of unlicensed vehicles and the vehicle excise duty evasion rate is given for Northern Ireland as a whole.

However, DVLNI does consider evidence in respect of the unlicensed database, the continuous registration database and detections from previous deployments, which is collated. This is used to identify areas where it is felt the automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) vehicles would be effective and work rotas are drawn up accordingly.

Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what use Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland makes of *(a)* variography and *(b)* pictometry techniques. [120788]

Maria Eagle: Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland makes no use of either technique.

Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland currently has a reseller agreement with the Somerset-based UK agent for pictometry and, as part of that agreement, holds a sample dataset of the North Down area of Northern Ireland for demonstration purposes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what satellite photography Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland has *(a)* used and *(b)* purchased in the last five years; and what high resolution satellites were used. [120790]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) In the last five years Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland has used 10 and 20 metre resolution (captured in 1990) and five metre resolution (captured in 2000) satellite photography as background imagery to assist in creating land use datasets for use within the MOLAND spatial indicators project.

(b) Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland purchased the 1990 photography in 2005. The 2000 photography is owned by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and was provided, under licence, to Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland for the duration of the project.

Spot satellites were used for the 1990 10 and 20 metre resolution photography and the IRS (Indian Remote Sensing) satellite was used for the 2000 five metre resolution photography.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* function is of the Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland's STAR computer system. [120860]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) The purpose of Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland's (OSNI) STAR (System for Tracking AceMap Requests) System is to record, in a central computerised system, all ground changes relevant to the updating of OSNI large scale mapping and to track the progress of the surveying of those changes and their addition to the OSNI topographic database.

STAR has been provided to a number of OSNI key customers in order that they can input notifications of change, query the progress of OSNI surveying relevant to their business needs, and perform limited spatial queries.

(b) The system records notification of ground changes, such as new housing development, on a map background. Notifications can be added by OSNI staff and/or users of OSNI mapping such as the Land Registers of Northern Ireland (LRNI) either from local knowledge, new address information supplied by the local authorities or from aerial photography within the STAR system. The recorded information is used by OSNI managers to allocate work to the OSNI survey teams and to track the progress of that work. Customers such as LRNI can also monitor any requests for map updates that they submit using the system. STAR also provides several map query tools that enable users to take measurements such as distance and area from the underlying OSNI large-scale mapping.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what maximum or highest resolution of aerial photography Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland holds for any part of Northern Ireland. [120867]

Maria Eagle: The highest resolution aerial photography that Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland holds for any part of Northern Ireland is 1:5,000 scale.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many aerial photographs Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland has *(a)* purchased and *(b)* taken in-house in each of the last five years. [120789]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) In each of the last five calendar years Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland has purchased the following numbers of aerial photographs.

	Number
2002	—
2003	4,539
2004	1,789
2005	2,263
2006	1,948
Total	10,539

(b) In each of the last five calendar years Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland has taken, in-house, the following numbers of aerial photographs.

	Number
2007	1,950
2008	2,720
2009	2,368
2010	2,825
2011	5,303
Total	15,166

Parliament Buildings

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of external lighting of Parliament Buildings for the most recent period for which figures are available in each of the last five years. [100682]

Mr. Hain: The cost of electricity for Parliament Buildings over the past five years is as follows:

	£000
April 2002 to March 2003	117
April 2003 to March 2004	130
April 2004 to March 2005	125
April 2005 to March 2006	82
April 2006 to November 2006	75

The slightly lower figures for 2005 and 2006 are primarily down to there being less people in the building.

These costs are for total electricity usage as it is not possible to separate the cost of external lighting.

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1883W, on the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, if he will meet the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland to discuss her definition of collusion as used in her recent report. [127170]

Paul Goggins: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has no plans to meet the Police Ombudsman to discuss specifically her definition of collusion as used in her recent report. However, broad issues arising from the Police Ombudsman's report have been discussed in meetings including the Ombudsman and Ministers.

Ports

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the authorities at *(a)* the Port of Belfast and *(b)* the Port of Larne on their future plans for development; and what meetings he has had with representatives from these ports in each of the past five years. [120436]

David Cairns: During the period of direct rule from October 2002, Ministers with responsibility for ports and harbours in Northern Ireland have met with the respective ports on the following occasions:

Port of Belfast

28 May 2003
26 July 2004
27 March 2006
27 June 2006
26 August 2006
11 December 2006
12 February 2007

Port of Larne

14 January 2003
13 January 2004

Ministers were briefed on future port development plans at a number of these meetings. Decisions on port development are matters for the trust port of Belfast and the privately owned port of Larne.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been made of the likely impact on trade at the Ports of Belfast, Larne and Warrenpoint of the proposed ports development on the east coast of the Irish Republic; and what discussions he has had with the Government of the Republic of Ireland on these developments. [120437]

David Cairns: I have not discussed the proposed ports development on the east coast with Republic of Ireland Ministers.

The assessment of the likely impact on trade at the trust ports of Belfast and Warrenpoint and the privately owned port of Larne are commercial matters for each of the ports.

Prisons: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of levels of drug use in Northern Ireland's prisons; and what steps he is taking to prevent drug use in prisons. [126889]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service collates monthly statistics from each of the establishments broken down by drug types and quantities found. A quarterly report is presented to the management board analysing the trend over the previous three months. Figures outlining the number of voluntary drug tests and the pass and failure rate are also provided.

Prevention methods used by the Prison Service include the searching of visitors and inmates, the use of passive drug dogs, deployment of specialist equipment

and trained staff, the use of CCTV in all areas and the collation of intelligence in liaison with other Criminal Justice Agencies.

An addictions manager has been appointed to implement the service's revised Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy and she will take up her post soon.

Public Sector: Pay

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the pay award to nurses and other public sector workers for 2007-08; and what assessment he has made of the effect of this announcement on the *(a)* morale and *(b)* productivity of public sector workers in Northern Ireland. [127129]

Mr. Hanson: I am discussing the application of the recent Pay Review Body settlements with ministerial colleagues in HM Treasury. Where comparable, the settlements, including those for nurses and other health professionals, will apply in Northern Ireland. The Pay Review Body pay awards should ensure that the public sector can recruit, retain and motivate suitable staff. The Government have achieved a great deal in recent years with significantly increased investment in public services, with the NHS being the main beneficiary. This in turn has led to greatly increased pay for front line staff, fully recognising the hard work they undertake and service they offer on a daily basis. On balance, the latest pay award ensures that key front line workers continue to be fairly rewarded while maintaining the wider need for overall awards that help maintain our current UK economic success.

While Northern Ireland health care workers are not formally covered by the Pay Review Bodies this will change in 2008-09 when these staff groups are incorporated formally into the pay review body process. A productivity working group has been established in Northern Ireland following the independent Appleby Review. This group will continue to monitor and assess productivity levels in the local health sector.

Pupils: Intimidation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assistance and guidance is provided by his Department to help *(a)* teachers and *(b)* pupils deal with bullying. [128119]

Maria Eagle: The Department has taken pro-active steps to tackle bullying through development and publication of guidance. Furthermore, the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003, which came into operation on 1 April 2003, places a duty on all grant-aided schools to have an anti-bullying policy and to draw up measures to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. Inspections of pastoral care arrangements in schools include an assessment of anti-bullying measures and if improvements can be made schools are advised at the time.

In 2004 the Department in partnership with voluntary organisations, including Save the Children, established an Anti-bullying Forum to enable a collaborative and co-ordinated approach to tackling bullying in schools. The Forum enables members to share models of best practice and disseminate information, to develop and co-ordinate joint initiatives and to ensure that schools and organisations working with children and young people are able to develop appropriate strategies to prevent and deal with bullying behaviours.

From early 2006 the Department has been funding a coordinator post attached to the NI Anti-Bullying Forum. She is currently involved in developing a regional anti-bullying strategy based on good practice here and elsewhere and in developing a support network for schools. In addition she will be researching best practice solutions to emerging problems such as cyber-bullying.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of bullying were recorded in schools in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. [128120]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not collect this information.

A research report on the scale and nature of bullying in schools, commissioned by the Department, will be published later this year. That will allow for a comparison with a similar study published in 2002 and the identification of any change.

Railways: Belfast

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding is planned for the Belfast to Larne railway line in the next three years. [120432]

David Cairns: Translink's capital programme for the next three years on the Larne line is as follows:

Completion of the works to Three Mile Water Viaduct as the final part of the Bleach Green to Whitehead Re-lay Project (£500,000)

Improvements to signalling systems (although most of the £915,000 spend will be in 2010/11)

Works to sea defences (£300,000)

Bridge strike protection at Carrickfergus (£150,000)

Plans have also been approved to improve facilities and disabled access across the whole railway network at a cost of £17 million. All of the stations and halts on the Larne line will benefit from this project.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many motorists in Northern Ireland should have completed the Statutory Off Road Notice during 2006, but did not; and how many of these were subsequently prosecuted. [121610]

David Cairns: Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) was introduced in Northern Ireland in December 2002. However, the offence of failing to make a SORN declaration was superseded in December 2003 by the introduction of continuous registration which created the new offence of being the keeper of an unlicensed vehicle; a vehicle being unlicensed if neither a current licence nor a Statutory

Off Road Notification is in force. Accordingly, there are no longer any prosecutions specifically for failing to make a Statutory Off Road Notification. During 2006, action was taken against 12,837 motorists for being the keeper of an unlicensed vehicle, resulting in the payment of over £538,000 in penalties.

Roads: Belfast

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made with the upgrading of *(a)* the A8 Belfast to Larne Road and *(b)* the A72 Belfast to Carrickfergus Road; and if he will make a statement. [120434]

David Cairns: The chief executive of roads service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 13 February 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a parliamentary question regarding what progress has been made with the upgrading of *(a)* the A8 Belfast to Larne Road and *(b)* the A72 Belfast to Carrickfergus Road; and if he will make a statement. As this issue falls within my responsibility as chief executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

Roads Service completed a package of major improvements on the A8 Belfast to Larne road in 2005 at a cost of some £13.3 million. With the completion of these works, which included a significant number of safety improvements, approximately 43 per cent. of the road between Sandyknowes (M2) and Larne is now of dual or motorway standard. Current traffic volumes on the remaining single carriageway section, between Ballynure and Kilwaughter do not merit the provision of a dual carriageway standard road at this time and it is the Department's view that the recent improvements provide a high level of service on this road.

However, you will be aware that on 31 July 2006, the Minister for Regional Development David Cairns MP, published the Consultation Document - 'Expanding the strategic road improvement programme 2015'. This included a proposed £10 million improvement scheme at the M2/A8 (M) Sandyknowes Junction. Roads Service has received some 80 responses to the document including a number in support of further upgrading of the A8. All responses are currently being considered and it is hoped that an announcement of the final proposals "will be made later this year.

You also enquired about progress on upgrading the A72 Belfast to Carrickfergus Road. I presume you meant the A2 Belfast to Carrickfergus Road.

I can advise that a proposed road improvement scheme on the A2 at Greenisland is included in Roads Service's major works preparation pool. The preparation pool comprises the highest priority major works schemes which are being designed and taken through the necessary statutory procedures with a view to progressing to construction within the next five years.

Following assessment of alternative route options, a preferred route has been selected and a preliminary design has been completed. The Department has prepared a Notice of Intention to Make a Direction Order, a Notice of Intention to make a Vesting Order, and an Environmental Statement, which we plan to publish in March 2007. A public exhibition will be held to coincide with the publication of these documents and there will be a formal period for public comment/objection to the Department's proposals which, depending on the outcome, may result in a public inquiry being required.

Subject to the successful completion of the statutory procedures and funding being available, Roads Service would hope to commence construction in 2008-09.

Roads: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost to the public purse was of the road gritting programme in Northern Ireland between 1 November and 31 January in each of the last four years. [120875]

David Cairns: The chief executive of roads service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 19 February 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding, what the total cost to the public purse was of the road gritting programme in Northern Ireland between 1st November and 31st January in each of the last four years. As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

I can advise that the total cost of Roads Service's winter gritting programme in Northern Ireland between 1st November and 31st January in each of the last four years is as follows:

	Cost of winter gritting programme (£000)
1 November 2003 to 31 January 2004	2,072
1 November 2004 to 31 January 2005	2,064
1 November 2005 to 31 January 2006	1,822
1 November 2006 to 31 January 2007	[1]1,770

[1] Approximately

Schools: Fire Prevention

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what fire safety training is provided to teachers and other school staff in Northern Ireland. [127122]

Maria Eagle: Fire safety training is the responsibility of individual school Boards of Governors. In order to help them carry out that responsibility, the Education and Library Boards have set out detailed fire precautions guidance in their publication "Health and Safety Manual—A Manual for Principals and Governors". That manual requires school principals to ensure staff receive training in areas such as fire prevention and evacuation and also requires that a safety inspection is completed annually. Principals and governors of schools are further assisted by each board's health and safety practitioner in the preparation of fire evacuation policies and testing of school-based procedures. While primarily aimed at governors in controlled and maintained schools, the manual is also available via the boards' websites to voluntary grammar and grant-maintained integrated schools, whose governors have similar responsibilities.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the proposed Marine Bill; and whether the Bill will be extended to Northern Ireland. [128121]

David Cairns: On 15 March, the Government published "A Sea Change, a Marine Bill White Paper" which set outs proposals for a new legal and management framework for the marine environment including Northern Ireland. However the White Paper makes it clear that it will be a matter for the incoming Assembly and local Ministers to decide on Northern Ireland's continued involvement in taking forward the proposals.

Secure Accommodation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients were held in secure accommodation in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years who were not designated as requiring such accommodation. [126943]

Paul Goggins: This information is not available.

Smoking

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what guidance and assistance has been provided by his Department to affected businesses in enforcing the smoking ban in Northern Ireland. [128135]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has funded the appointment of Smoke-free Environments Officers, who are currently providing advice and guidance to employers and businesses about the forthcoming smoke-free legislation. In addition, the Health Promotion Agency will next month distribute, on behalf of the Department, a smoke-free guidance pack for employers. The pack, which will include sample "no smoking" signage, is available for downloading now from the Agency's "Space to breathe" website:

www.spacetobreathe.org.uk

Swans

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what estimate he has made of the number of whooper swans that settle in Northern Ireland each year; where they stay; whether any of the sites are potentially affected by road schemes; and if he will make a statement on the protections afforded to the swans; [119455]

(2) when he expects to reply to question 119455, on the protection afforded to whooper swans in Northern Ireland, tabled by the hon. Member for Worthing West on 27 February for answer on 6 February. [127867]

David Cairns: Due to an administrative oversight question 119455 was not answered earlier.

The most recent survey recorded 4,331 whooper swans in Northern Ireland in January 2005.

There are five main sites that regularly support whooper swans in numbers of international or regional importance. These are Upper Lough Erne, Lough Neagh and Lough Beg, Lough Foyle, River Foyle, River Lagan-Flatfield and River Blackwater-Derryscollop. There are a number of other smaller, more widely dispersed flocks.

My officials are aware of only one road scheme with the potential to impact on a whooper swan site. This is the proposed further road development at Toome, County Londonderry. This is still at the planning stage and is subject to an assessment as required by article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Recent surveys of the swans at this location will provide further information on the number and behaviour of birds overwintering on Lough Beg.

Whooper swan is listed in Annex II of the Birds Directive and three special protection areas have been classified for them at Lough Neagh and Lough Beg, Lough Foyle and Upper Lough Erne.

Whooper swan is also listed on schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, which affords protection for them throughout Northern Ireland.

Towerview School, Bangor

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the timetable is for the new school build for Towerview Primary School in Bangor; whether he expects this timetable to be met; and if he will make a statement. [127128]

Maria Eagle: I understand that planning for Towerview Primary School is well advanced and that final design stage costs are to be submitted by the South Eastern Education and Library Board to the Department of Education for approval. Once design costs have been received and approved it would normally take a few months to complete the remaining stages before construction work could commence. I would therefore expect that the scheme should be able to start by the summer and take around 12 to 15 months to finish, subject to the necessary stages being completed satisfactorily.

Translink: Closed Circuit Television

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the Translink public transport fleet has CCTV fitted; and what assessment he has made of the impact of CCTV in deterring crime on the transport network where it is used. [128126]

David Cairns: Translink has advised that the percentage of public transport that has been fitted with CCTV is as follows: Metro 64 per cent., Ulsterbus 22 per cent., NIR 61 per cent.

Case studies of bus security and good practice clearly indicate that CCTV has a role to play in crime reduction and improved driver/passenger security and that staff morale and customer confidence is increased by the use of on-board CCTV. It is the intention that all new vehicles are fully equipped with CCTV systems at build stage.

Travel: Concessions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of those eligible were issued with a Smart Pass in each of the last six years, broken down by eligibility category. [128127]

David Cairns: The information is not readily available in the form requested. SmartPasses were first issued by the Department for Regional Development in March 2002 and became operational in May 2002. Although the number issued is known, there is no record of the number of former passholders who are now deceased. The following table sets out the number of first-time passes issued by eligibility category in each of the last six financial years. These figures do not include SmartPasses issued to replace those reported lost, damaged, stolen, etc. It has not been possible to obtain exact figures for eligible populations, but the table includes estimates used for planning and budgetary purposes.

Financial year	*Senior*	*War pensioner*	*Blind*	*Half fare*
2001-02	54,218	0	0	0
2002-03	98,795	1,126	0	0
2003-04	14,966	69	1,268	1,781
2004-05	10,735	58	101	6,719
2005-06	11,412	57	61	2,557
2006-07 (to 28 February 2007)	11,764	56	74	1,825
Total SmartPasses issued	201,890	1,366	1,504	12,882
Estimated eligible population	[1]240,000	[2]3,640	[3]5,000	[4]150,000

[1] Mid-year population estimates Northern Ireland 2004 (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency).
[2] Source: The Veterans Agency
[3] Source: The Royal National Institute for the Blind
[4] Source: Based on total of DLA Mobility Component recipients (DSDNI), and estimates of total numbers of registered partially sighted, learning disabled and not eligible to receive a driving licence on medical grounds.

Water Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the proposed cap on capital values for domestic properties will apply to water bills. [120858]

David Cairns: The inclusion of a charge cap for the unmeasured domestic charging regime has been an integral part of the proposals since they were first published in the integrated impact assessment consultation (November 2004).

The proposed cap seeks to ensure that domestic customers whose properties have a high capital valuation do not pay charges which are substantially higher than could be justified by their use of the services.

The charge cap for 2007-08 has been set at £385 for water (around £128 with the phasing in of charges) and £385 for sewerage (around £128 with phasing). It is estimated that the capped charge will apply to around 1 per cent. of properties.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimate is of the highest domestic water bill in Northern Ireland under the new capital value system once transitional relief has been phased out. [120859]

David Cairns: The average combined bills in 2009-10 when water and sewerage charges are fully phased in will be around £340 (the projected England and Wales average charge) with the highest combined water and sewerage bills being capped at around £800.

Water: Meters

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Northern Ireland Administration is taking to provide the option of water metering for households that wish to opt in to a meter. [119565]

David Cairns: As the first steps in a managed, long-term transition to widespread metering, from 1 April 2007 meters will be installed on all new connections (new build properties and first time connections); and all consumers aged 60 years or over will be able to apply for a meter. Information packs, including how to apply for a meter, are currently being circulated to all households in Northern Ireland.

This phased approach will be reviewed within two years when decisions will be taken about extending the metering option to further groups of consumers.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of existing domestic properties in Northern Ireland will be able to volunteer to have a water meter installed from April 2007 rather than pay the unmetered rate. [120855]

David Cairns: From April 2007 Northern Ireland Water will begin a managed long-term transition to widespread domestic metering. Meters will be installed in all new properties and first time connections and metering will be available to pensioner households who apply. For the purposes of this provision pensioner households includes those where the householder is aged 60 or over. It is estimated that such households account for around 30 per cent. of existing domestic properties.

This policy is due to be reviewed within two years.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 21 March 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his deputy held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128754]

Mr. Straw: Six.

WALES

Business Regulations

12. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he next expects to meet representatives of business organisations to discuss the impact of central Government regulations on Welsh businesses. [127786]

Mr. Hain: I have regular meetings with representatives of the business community to discuss issues that concern them.

Economic Activity

13. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on levels of economic activity in Wales. [127787]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues, including economic activity levels in Wales.

There are currently 1.426 million economically active people in Wales, with employment at a record high.

Manufacturing Exports

14. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last met the First Minister to discuss manufacturing exports from Wales. [127788]

Mr. Hain: I meet regularly with the First Minister to discuss a range of issues, including exports and the manufacturing sector in Wales.

Prisons: Doctors

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many prison doctors are employed full-time in Wales. [127643]

Mr. Hain: No prison doctor is currently employed in Wales. One doctor is employed part-time by the Prison Service, and the remainder are employed on a sessional basis by various contracted GP service providers. Together they provide a total of 37 sessions per week across the four prisons.

TRANSPORT

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many work permits were applied for by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [127711]

Gillian Merron: The number of work permits applied for over the past five years by the Department and its agencies on behalf of permanent staff was:

	Number
2002	4
2003	6
2004	4
2005	6
2006	2

Driving Offences

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of his joint letter with the Secretary of State for the Home Department to Chief Constables in England and Wales in early 2007 outlining the Government's position on enforcement levels of criminal motoring offences. [128590]

Dr. Ladyman: Yes.

M1: Tinsley

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whom he would expect to consult before agreeing to a request to close the M1 at Tinsley in order to facilitate the demolition of the cooling towers; and how much notice he would give the public of any such closure. [128911]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency would consult with the police, Sheffield city council and Rotherham metropolitan borough council, once details have been finalised, before agreeing a request to close the M1 at Tinsley in order to facilitate the demolition of the cooling towers.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on which days it would be possible to close the M1 at Tinsley to facilitate the demolition of the cooling towers; and for how long such a closure would be in place. [128912]

Dr. Ladyman: It is likely that if demolition of the cooling towers at Tinsley were to go ahead the M1 will be closed from 9 pm on a Saturday through to 6 am on a Monday, or until such time as it is safe to reopen the motorway.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the length of time the M1 at Tinsley will need to be closed in order to allow the demolition of the cooling towers; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect on traffic. [128913]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is currently assessing for how long the M1 at Tinsley would need to be closed, and the impact on traffic.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received any requests to close the M1 at Tinsley for the purpose of demolishing the cooling towers; and whether any such closure is planned. [128914]

Dr. Ladyman: No formal requests to close the M1 at Tinsley have been received for the purpose of demolishing the cooling towers. However, on safety grounds the Highways Agency would close the M1 should the demolition go ahead.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost of closing the M1 at Tinsley to facilitate the demolition of the cooling towers. [128915]

Dr. Ladyman: The cost of closing the M1 at Tinsley to facilitate the demolition of the cooling towers cannot be estimated until details have been finalised.

Railways: Brighton

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work has been undertaken to enhance capacity on the London to Brighton line since 1997. [125982]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since 1997 the measure to address capacity issues on the Brighton Main Line has been to introduce new rolling stock for the Southern franchise. The old slam door fleet has been fully replaced, with 24 per cent. extra trains in total, with each new train having more capacity than the train it replaced.

The next phase of capacity enhancement will be implemented as the Brighton Main Line Rail Utilisation Strategy (BML RUS). The BML RUS will make better use of the existing capacity on the Brighton Main Line. After this the next measure would be the Thameslink programme that will be decided on as part of the comprehensive spending review this year

The High Level Output Statement (HLOS), again due to be published this year, will set out the best long-term plan to accommodate the growth on this route beyond the steps already taken and the plans already in place.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there is a backlog of maintenance for local roads. [125991]

Gillian Merron: Local authorities are responsible for the maintenance of their highways networks. Each local authority decides on appropriate service levels and standards for their own highways and what maintenance is required. The Department does not collect information centrally on the amount of work that authorities consider to be outstanding.

The Department has encouraged all local highway authorities to produce asset management plans for their roads. These bring together inventory and conditions information which, together with target condition based upon desired service levels, will inform calculations of maintenance need. We are also working with local authorities to identify best practice in highways asset management with a view to publishing best practice guidance. This will build on the UK Roads Liaison Group's three codes of practice covering street lighting, highways and bridges, published in November 2004, July 2005 and September 2005 respectively, which provide advice on efficient and effective management of the network.

Speed Limits: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed speed cameras are located in Gloucestershire, broken down by site and district council area. [129010]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not hold this information by district council area. The information is held for the area covered by the Gloucestershire Safety Camera Partnership and the site details are shown in the following list.

Site name:

A4019/Tewkesbury Road (St. Peters)
A419/Cainscross Road/(Lodgemore Lane)
A419/Cainscross Road/(Marling School)
A48/Highbank
A48/Walmore Hill
A48/Chaxhill
A48/Minsterworth School
A48/Alvington
A40Huntley
A40/Birdwood
A4302/Metz Way
A38/Norton
A40/Northleach
A4309/Bristol Road/Morelands
A4309/Bristol Road/Permali
A38/Finlay Road
A38/Eastern Avenue/Ambulance Station
A38/Eastern Avenue/TA Centre
A38/Whitminster
A38/Cambridge
A48/Woolaston
B4063/London Road
A40/Dowdeswell
A429/Foss Cross
A429/Slaughter Pike
A4135/Dursley

Transport: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what transport improvements for which his Department is responsible there have been in Tamworth constituency in the last 12 months; and what improvements are planned. [128347]

Gillian Merron: The Department allocated £24.049 million of capital resources to Staffordshire county council for 2006-07 through the local transport block funding for integrated transport and maintenance.

Staffordshire's delivery of their first local transport plan period was excellent and their plan for the second local transport period to 2011 has been assessed as 'good'. We have already committed a further £40.86 million in support for capital investment in the plan, and further allocations for highway maintenance will be announced in December.

On the railways, investment of over £8 billion has gone into the West Coast Main Line. From December 2008 Tamworth will benefit in having a regular hourly service throughout the day to and from London and Crewe plus fast morning and evening business services to and from London.

Tamworth has also benefited from the A5 Weeford to Fazeley improvement which was completed in October 2005.

West Coast Main Line

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects longer Pendolino trains to be operating on the West Coast Main Line. [128742]

Mr. Tom Harris: Negotiations continue to take place with Virgin Trains and their partners over the provision of additional cars for the Pendolino trains. I cannot give any specific time scales at this stage.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian needs of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [128349]

Hilary Benn: Compared to the situation this time last year, there has been some small improvement in the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): the overall numbers of new displacements per month has reduced slightly; the total number of displaced persons is now estimated by the UN Organisation for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) to be about 1 million; there has been a continuing flow of Congolese refugees returning from neighbouring countries with about 405,000 remaining outside the country and there has been a considerable reduction in the recruitment of child soldiers.

However, there remains considerable cause for concern. The Congolese army continues to steal from and harass the population. This has been exacerbated where attempts to carry out a mixing process between the army and remaining militia groups has increased ethnic tensions in certain areas and has led to large numbers of people being displaced. In the Kivus, the population also continue to be harassed by the foreign armed group the FDLR (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda). Throughout the region sexual violence remains unacceptably high and outbreaks of disease such as cholera, meningitis and plague add to the suffering of the population. For those areas where greater stability means that people can return home, they need help with the basics such as health care, clean water and assistance to restart farming. This is also true for many areas throughout the country where infrastructure and services have been destroyed or neglected.

The DRC Humanitarian Action Plan, developed by the humanitarian community in DRC, estimates the total need for 2007 to be US $687 million. This includes interventions to save lives and to help people return home or to have access to basic services when there is no other support. DFID expects to spend about £35 million on humanitarian aid for DRC in 2007. This will include a contribution of £30 million to the DRC Humanitarian Pooled Fund (in support of the Humanitarian Action Plan). The first £15 million for the pooled fund has already been transferred, as has £2 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross for their annual appeal for DRC.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral aid initiatives the UK is undertaking in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [128350]

Hilary Benn: The UK had £67 million development assistance available to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in financial year 2006-07. Approximately half of these funds have been spent on emergency humanitarian support through the UN and non-governmental organisations, with the remainder on supporting the 2006 electoral process, improving transport links to some isolated areas, supporting police and justice reform, supplying anti-malarial bednets and basic health, education, water and sanitation services and tackling HIV/AIDS. Additionally, through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool, we are supporting the EU mission advising on reform of the army; the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of militia groups; and the provision of tents, water and sanitation and human rights training to soldiers in the new integrated brigades (and their families and local communities) to try to stop them preying on civilian populations to make ends meet.

Available funds are set to increase if the country continues to make progress. We are currently finalising our post-elections strategy for the DRC. We are doing this under the umbrella of the Common Assistance Framework—a joint strategy with all DRC's other major donors. This will help ensure that donor support to the DRC is co-ordinated and so more effective. All of our programmes are developed in consultation with other donors—such as the World Bank, UN, European Commission, the United States, Belgium and Sweden, and many will be jointly implemented. For example, the programme we are developing on road rehabilitation will be implemented through the World Bank, and also financed by the European Commission. Our humanitarian support to those most in need is implemented by the UN and non-governmental organisation and funded by several donors through a "pooled fund" mechanism which allows DRC's humanitarian co-ordinator to deploy funds quickly and flexibly to wherever the need is greatest.

Under out post-elections strategy our planned portfolio will focus on:

1. Building an effective and accountable state—including reform of the police, army and justice sector.

2. Enabling democratisation and accountability.

3. Supporting the provision of basic services—health, education and infrastructure—to the population and tackling HIV/AIDS.

4. Enabling growth by rebuilding roads and promoting better management of the DRC's natural resources.

5. Providing immediate humanitarian assistance to those in desperate need of assistance.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what total *(a)* value and *(b)* proportion of debts belonging to heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) is owned by commercial creditors; and how much debt relief has been provided by commercial creditors under the HIPC initiative. [128346]

Hilary Benn: The World Bank and IMF estimate that approximately 5 per cent. of the total outstanding debt of all HIPC countries (US$63.2 billion in Net Present Value terms) was owed to commercial creditors.

Countries that receive debt relief from multilateral organisations and bilateral (Government) creditors are required to negotiate equivalent debt relief from other creditors, including commercial banks and companies. Many commercial banks are part of the 'London Club' and offer debt relief under the HIPC framework. However, a survey of 24 HIPCs in 2006 led the IMF and World Bank to estimate that only a limited number of commercial creditors (holding approximately 5.5 per cent. of the total commercial debts) have provided their share of HIPC debt relief directly.

Many of the remaining commercial creditors have agreed to around 90 per cent. debt reduction as part of operations managed by the World Bank under their Debt Reduction Facility (DRF), the remaining 10 per cent. of the debt is paid for by the World Bank and donors with some contribution from HIPCs towards the costs. By mid-2006, over $4.5 billion worth of commercial debt owed by HIPCs had been eliminated in this way.

However, some of the remaining commercial debt is bought by vulture funds. These companies wait until a country's circumstances have improved (for example after debt relief) and then press their case through the courts, seeking large settlements. We are working bilaterally and multilaterally with HIPC Governments to raise awareness of this issue and encourage preventative action. DFID is co-funding a Debt Management Capacity Building programme and supports a wide range of other activities to strengthen public financial management and accountability. DFID also supports the World Bank's DRF, and we have recently agreed to provide a contribution of $3.5 million to a package that will help Nicaragua buy back over $1.3 billion-worth of commercial debt.

Developing Countries: Diseases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with representatives of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative on treatment for *(a)* malaria and *(b)* other diseases. [128940]

Hilary Benn: DFID is providing £6.5 million to the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) from 2005 to 2008. Officials from the Central Research Department hold regular discussions with DNDi about their work to develop new treatments for malaria and such neglected tropical diseases as leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness and Chagas disease.

Institute for Public Policy Research: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd. in each year since May 1997; and for what purposes. [125714]

Hilary Benn: Tables 1 and 2 contain details of DFID funding to IPPR and IPPR trading respectively since March 1997.

Table 1: IPPR Funding

Purpose	Year	Amount (£)
Sponsorship of IPPR event 'Can Global become Local'	2004-05	1,468
Evening Symposium 'Putting your House in Order—promoting a more coherent international response to fragile states'	2004-05	7,892
Supporting IPPR event ' Symposium on the future of the United Nations'	2004-05	7,050
Funding for participation in a Working Group on Demographic Challenges in Stockholm.	2005-06	561
Supporting IPPR conference 'China in Africa'	2005-06	9,023

Table 2: IPPR Trading Limited

Purpose	Year	Amount (£)
Consultancy work on Analytical Framework: Poverty, Development and Global Security	2004-05	21,250
Consultancy work on drafting the Security and Development Strategy	2004-05	15,863

Uganda: Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the Government of Uganda on the distribution of *(a)* development funds and *(b)* budget support to that country's regions. [128471]

Hilary Benn: The overarching framework for allocating budget resources in Uganda is the Government's own Poverty Eradication Action Plan. DFID participates in the process through which the Government of Uganda determine the distribution of budget funds which include

assessments of performance and financing needs in individual sectors and an annual Public Expenditure Review in which development partners and civil society are consulted about budget plans for the next year and the medium term. Allocations to the Poverty Action Fund, through which poverty reduction expenditure is prioritised, are now nearly 40 per cent. of the Government's budget compared to about 20 per cent. at the end of the 1990s. DFID's Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS) supplements the Government's own resources in the budget. Decisions about PRBS take into account the Government's commitments to poverty reduction, strengthening financial management and accountability and respecting human rights and international obligations.

The distribution of support to the country's regions is an important part of the discussions which DFID has about performance and financing needs in individual sectors such as health, education, water and agriculture. The provision of services at district level is largely funded by the central Government. Ensuring that the criteria for allocating resources to districts take proper account of poverty is a priority for DFID. We have worked closely with the Government in different sectors to improve allocation criteria so that the distribution of funds and the provision of services better reflects needs. In recent years there has been a shift in the allocation of resources in favour of poorer districts, although there is scope for further improvement. A recent National Audit Office study noted the contribution DFID has made to bringing about positive changes in the district budget allocation system.

A particular focus for our discussion about support to Uganda's regions has been the situation in the north where the humanitarian consequences of conflict have created major additional needs on top of normal per capita expenditure, including the requirement for large scale food distribution. These additional needs have largely been met by the donor community. We have pressed the Government to do more. The Government responded in the 2006-07 budget by making available an extra £5.3 million (approximately) for the districts of the north affected by conflict.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Consultation Papers

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedures her Department is following in drafting Part I of the Creative Economy Green Paper; and when she expects the Green Paper to be published. [128231]

Mr. Woodward: Part 1 of the forthcoming Creative Economy Green Paper will set out a clear analysis of the state of the UK's creative economy, the factors that have driven its recent success and the challenges the sector faces.

In preparing this, we will draw on the findings of seven Working Groups set up at the outset of the Creative Economy Programme, our existing evidence base and specially commissioned research, as well as responses to an earlier online consultation and a range of industry summits and bilateral discussions.

The work commissioned by DCMS from the Work Foundation will contribute to an economic analysis. We plan to publish later in the summer.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedure her Department used in appointing the Work Foundation to write a paper on the creative economy. [128232]

Mr. Woodward: The Department appointed the Work Foundation on a single tender, taking into account several factors. Principal among these was that the Work Foundation was undertaking a major wider project on 'The Knowledge Economy', of which the creative economy is a part. This enabled the organisation to produce expert, innovative and specialised work for this consultancy drawing on their wider experience, evidence base and stature.

The consultancy project also demands powerful leadership with the ability to help the Department engage in challenging discussion with a wide range of senior figures in the private and public sector. These additional factors also supported the appointment of the Work Foundation.

Copyright: EC Law

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what opportunity was given to stakeholders to comment on the evidence received by the Gowers Review prior to publication of the Gowers Report. [128233]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The Gowers Review conducted a public call for evidence in the early stages of the review. Over 100 respondents made their evidence publicly available prior to the publication of the review for wider discussion. The review also met with a wide range of stakeholders—including representatives from the creative industries and consumer groups—throughout 2006 to discuss emerging evidence.

Film

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 322-4W, on film, which other industry summits she *(a)* has held and *(b)* plans to hold to inform the further development of the Joint Creative Economy Programme with the Department of Trade and Industry; and who has been invited to each. [128560]

Mr. Woodward: We have held industry summits on:

Film
Broadcasting
Architecture
Music
Publishing

We will hold industry summits on:

Software
Games
Design
Performing Arts
Advertising
Fashion.

I am arranging for a list of those people invited to each industry summit to be placed in the House Libraries. Invitations to the Fashion Summit have not yet been issued.

Museums and Galleries

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what requests she has received from any authority within European member states in respect of the restitution of museum artefacts from those states which are held by British museums. [128779]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received no recent requests from EU member states in respect of the restitution of artefacts held by British museums.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with her counterparts in other EU member states on the restitution of museum artefacts. [128780]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with her counterparts in other EU member states on this issue.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many businesses based in *(a)* the London Borough of Newham, *(b)* the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, *(c)* the London Borough of Hackney, *(d)* the London Borough of Waltham Forest and *(e)* the London Borough of Greenwich have secured tenders for the construction phase of the London Olympics; [126289]

(2) how many UK-based businesses in each region have secured tenders for the construction phase of the London Olympics; [126290]

(3) how many businesses based in *(a)* the London Borough of Newham, *(b)* the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, *(c)* the London Borough of Hackney, *(d)* the London Borough of Waltham Forest and *(e)* the London Borough of Greenwich have submitted applications for contracts during the construction phase of the London Olympics; [126291]

(4) what value of contracts has been secured by UK-based businesses in each region for the construction phase of the London Olympics. [126716]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is currently engaged in a process of procuring contracts for the construction phase of the Olympic and Paralympic facilities. To date, the ODA has not awarded any construction phase contracts. The ODA has awarded the contract for the project and programme management of the Olympic Park, and has had the contracts for the undergrounding of the powerlines and remediation and demolition work novated over to them from the London Development Agency.

To date, 1,480 businesses in London have registered an interest in London 2012 contract opportunities of which 143 are interested in construction opportunities. In respect of submitted applications for contracts during the construction phase, applications are currently being reviewed and details of successful applicants will be made available once contracts have been awarded.

Tourism

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which UK cities received the highest number of tourist visitors in each of the last 10 years. [128846]

Mr. Woodward: Table 1 shows the UK cities with the highest number of visits by overseas residents from 2000 to 2005. Due to methodological changes to the International Passenger survey in 1999, comparisons with earlier years would be misleading, and are therefore not reported.

Table 2 shows the UK cities with the highest number of overnight visits by domestic residents for 2005-06 only, as data for previous years would involve disproportionate costs to obtain.

Information on domestic same day visits is not available at this level of detail.

Table 1: Visits by overseas residents to the UK (all purposes of trip)—Top 5 towns 2000-05

Top Towns/Cities	*Total visits[1] (Thousand)*
2000	
London	13,150
Edinburgh	910
Manchester	560
Birmingham	520
Glasgow	430
2001	
London	11,450
Edinburgh	850
Manchester	550
Birmingham	450
Glasgow	400
2002	
London	11,600
Edinburgh	850
Birmingham	670
Manchester	590
Glasgow	400
2003	
London	11,700
Edinburgh	770
Manchester	740
Birmingham	720
Glasgow	420
2004	
London	13,390
Edinburgh	940
Manchester	770
Birmingham	730
Glasgow	540

Table 1: Visits by overseas residents to the UK (all purposes of trip)—Top 5 towns 2000-05

Top Towns/Cities	Total visits[1] (Thousand)
2005	
London	13,893
Edinburgh	1,134
Manchester	824
Birmingham	728
Glasgow	684

[1] Excludes Day Visits

Source:
International Passenger Survey, ONS

Table 2: Overnight visits by UK residents (all purposes of trip)—Top 5 towns May 2005-April 2006

Top Towns/Cities	Total visits (Thousand)
London	10,434
Manchester	2,613
Edinburgh	2,237
Birmingham	2,075
Glasgow	1,964

Source:
United Kingdom Tourism Survey

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Air Pollution

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House authorities have made of the volume of *(a)* carbon dioxide, *(b)* methane, *(c)* perfluorocarbons, *(d)* nitrous oxide and *(e)* carbon equivalent released by the incineration of waste from the House of Commons estate when calculating the estate's carbon footprint. [120729]

Nick Harvey: Only residual waste after recycling has taken place is sent for incineration with energy recovery. In 2006 residual waste collected from the parliamentary estate amounted to 1,299 tonnes. This material was combusted at an energy recovery facility regulated by the Environment Agency, generating 725,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. The recovered energy is classed as renewable energy by the UK Government, in line with Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market.

Recovering energy from waste is acknowledged in the Stern review as an effective weapon in combating climate change, displacing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel power generation sources.

The carbon footprint associated with the combustion of this waste is made up of a number of components:

(1) Direct emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), expressed as carbon equivalents

(2) "Avoided" emissions of GHG (that is, emissions displaced from an equivalent amount of fossil fuel power generating capacity)

(3) GHG emissions (additional or saved) from waste transportation

(4) Net GHG emissions, taking account of direct, avoided and transport-related emissions.

Direct emissions of GHG

GHG emissions from waste combustion are calculated in two steps. First, an estimate is made of the percentage of fossil and non-fossil carbon in the waste. Second, the emissions from the combustion of the fossil carbon within the waste are calculated. Emissions of non-fossil carbon do not contribute to global warming and are therefore not taken into account.

Methane is not produced in combustion plants. The remaining greenhouse gases are released in trace quantities relative to emissions of carbon dioxide. Because their concentrations in the emission gases vary according to the composition of the waste, the total GHG effect expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (Teq) is estimated using emission factors developed by DEFRA, based on measured emissions averaged across UK energy recovery facilities.

Direct GHG emissions following the combustion of residual waste from parliamentary estates amounts to 415 Teq, of which 295 Teq is carbon dioxide.

GHG emissions from waste transportation

A saving in GHG emissions is realised when residual waste from the parliamentary estates is combusted, since the energy recovery facility is just 12 miles from the House. Previously the waste was being transported to landfill further away from the estate.

The GHG emission factor developed by DEFRA for waste transportation varies between 0.37 and 0.49 kg carbon dioxide equivalents per tonne of waste transported, depending on distance travelled. For transportation of 1,299 tonnes of parliamentary estates waste, this amounts to a GHG emission of between 0.48-0.65 Teq. Since this is less than 1 per cent. of the emissions of direct or avoided emissions, the GHG saving in transporting the waste a shorter distance will be omitted when presenting net emissions.

Net GHG emissions

The carbon footprint associated with the combustion of waste from the parliamentary estates is obtained by subtracting avoided emissions from direct emissions.

This equates to a net GHG saving of 20 Teq. Therefore 20 Teq should be subtracted when determining the total carbon footprint of parliamentary estates.

TREASURY

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on using the reserve to cover the contingent liability for disallowances arising from the single farm payments under the Common Agricultural Policy; whether he plans to use the reserve to cover the full amount of disallowance; and if he will make a statement. [127971]

John Healey: The Government's policy on access to the reserve is set out in paragraphs 1.44—1.47 of the 'Consolidated Budgeting Guidance from 2007-08'. As reflected in their spring supplementary estimate, Defra

have been granted a non-cash reserve claim to allow provisions for disallowances to be made in their 2006-07 accounts.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1675W, on what date he was informed that the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs intended to claim £305 million from the reserve for the contingent liabilities for provision for disallowance arising from Common Agricultural Policy schemes. [128157]

John Healey: The Treasury and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are in constant contact on a wide range of issues.

British Nationality: Research

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the purpose was of the 'What it means to be British' research commissioned by his Department from Opinion Leader Research in 2005. [126032]

John Healey *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* The Treasury has commissioned no such research.

Census

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ask the Office for National Statistics to rework 2001 census data for the new parliamentary constituency areas once they are formally agreed. [129034]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 March 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ask the Office for National Statistics to rework the 2001 census data for the new parliamentary areas once they are formally agreed. (128034)

I would refer you to the answer that was supplied in the Official Report Volume 458, Number 61, Column 419.

Climate Change Taskforce

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how vacancies on his climate change taskforce were advertised; and if he will make a statement. [123381]

John Healey: The Chancellor does not have a climate change taskforce.

Deborah Mattinson

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times he has met Ms Deborah Mattinson in an official capacity since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [124444]

John Healey *[holding answer 1 March 2007]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* marketing officers, *(b)* communication officers, *(c)* press officers and *(d)* promotional officers are employed in his Department; and what estimate he has made of total expenditure on communications for the Department on (i) Government Information and Communication Service staff and (ii) other (A) press officers, (B) special advisers and (C) staff in the last year for which figures are available. [104221]

John Healey: The Treasury employs eight press officers. It has no marketing officers. Information on total communications spending is not held centrally.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128039]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 834W and the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1075W.

Departments: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what strategy he has put in place for *(a)* the use of renewable energy and *(b)* meeting energy targets in his Department's buildings; and if he will make a statement. [125399]

John Healey: The Department annually publishes its strategy in the Sustainable Development Action Plan, which can be found at the following public website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/089/DA/sustainabledev_170306.pdf

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Office and its agencies. [128251]

John Healey: Royal Mail.

Departments: Smith Institute

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many seminars held by the Smith Institute have been attended by Ministers in his Department acting in an official capacity in the last 12 months; [123343]

(2) on how many occasions he has spoken in an official capacity at an event organised by *(a)* the Smith Institute and *(b)* its subsidiary SI Events Ltd. in the last 12 months. [128367]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials attend many seminars and have meetings with a variety of organisations in the public and private sectors. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1489W, on Departments: Surveys, if he will redact personal information and place a copy of the survey in the Library. [128537]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1489W.

Red Box Teaching Packs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what updates to the Red Box teaching pack were made in the last six months; and how many updates to the Red Box teaching pack have been produced. [128826]

John Healey: The Red Box website has been updated and went live in early March. The printed Red Box has not been updated in the last six months. There have been two editions produced to date, in 2002 and 2005, as I said in my written answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1557W.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128753]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departments: Training

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* seminars, *(b)* workshops and *(c)* exhibitions were held by the human resources team in his Department in the last six months. [125756]

John Healey: The HR team holds regular meetings in order to fulfil its departmental responsibilities. There is no business requirement to record the details of individual events.

Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1430W, on disciplinary procedures, what information his Human Resources Department collects on disciplinary action. [128902]

John Healey: The Treasury collects a range of data related to Human Resources Issues.

Electoral Register: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which areas within Chorley borough have low electoral registration rates. [126613]

John Healey *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding which areas within Chorley borough have low electoral registration rates. (126613)

The attached table provides information, for each electoral ward in Chorley, comparing the number of people who are registered to vote as local electors with the "estimated usually resident population" aged 18 and over. The resulting percentages are labelled as "registration rates" on the table and this term is used in the remainder of this reply. These data provide the closest available approximation to the information you requested. It is not possible to calculate the percentage of the eligible population who are registered to vote: the resident population aged 18 and over is not the same as the number of people eligible to vote.

These "registration rates" are not published as National Statistics: there are a number of issues that mean care needs to be taken when interpreting the data. In particular, care needs to be taken when considering areas where the usually resident population differs radically from the population eligible to vote. An example of such an area might be one containing prisons (as is the case for Lostock ward) or accommodation for a United States Air Force base, as prisoners and American citizens are not eligible to vote. These people are however included in the population estimates as they are usually resident. Therefore, the estimated "registration rate" calculated for such areas is considerably reduced.

Please note that the population estimates have a reference date of 30 June, and electoral data a reference date of 1 December. Attainers have been excluded from the electorate data (as they are under 18) to give the best possible comparison.

There is also inevitably some double counting of the registered electorate (both parliamentary and local/European) as electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or after they have died. This is one of the main reasons some areas show rates in excess of 100 per cent.

The population data are estimates and as such are subject to a margin of confidence. The ward level population estimates are derived from estimates for a different geography that have been published with the status of experimental statistics. Therefore, the estimates, and electoral registration rates derived from them, should not be treated as being exact. The latest derived available ward estimates are for mid-2004 and therefore data are shown for this year.

2004: Electoral registration rates, wards in Chorley, in ascending order.

Electorate Ward	December 2004	Population 18+ Mid-2004	Registration rate[1]
Lostock	3,385	4,800	71
Coppull	4,971	5,100	97
Chorley North East	5,035	5,200	97
Brindle and Hoghton	1,735	1,800	97
Chorley East	4,955	5,100	98
Clayton Le Woods North	5,164	5,300	98
Pennine	1,729	1,800	99
Clayton Le Woods West and Cuerden	3,498	3,500	99
Chorley South East	4,846	4,900	99
Euxton South	3,220	3,300	99
Heath Charnock and Rivington	1,779	1,800	100
Astley and Buckshaw	2,752	2,800	100
Clayton Le Woods and Whittle Le Woods	5,345	5,300	100
Chorley South West	5,093	5,100	100
Euxton North	3,560	3,500	100
Eccleston and Mawdesley	4,786	4,800	100
Chorley North West	4,945	4,900	100
Chisnall	3,289	3,300	101
Wheelton and Withnell	3,266	3,200	101
Adlington and Anderton	5,526	5,400	102

[1] The registered electorate expressed as a percentage of the usually resident population aged 18 and over. The electoral registration rates have been calculated using unrounded population estimates.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Employment Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people of working age were *(a)* in full-time employment and *(b)* in part-time employment in each year since 1979-80; [124618]

(2) what the *(a)* employment rate, *(b)* full-time employment rate and *(c)* part-time employment rate for (i) women and (ii) men was in each year since 1979-80. [124619]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking how many people of working age have been (a) in full-time employment and (b) in part-time employment in each year since 1979-80 and what the estimate is of the (a) employment rate, (b) full-time employment rate and (c) part-time employment rate for (i) women and (ii) men for each year since 1979-80. (124618 & 124619)

Table 1 shows the number of people in employment (working age) and the full-time and part-time employment for people aged 16 and over by gender for each year from 1992 to 2006. A full-time and part-time split is not available for the working age population on a consistent basis.

Table 2 shows the working age employment rates by gender for each year from 1992 to 2006. It also shows the percentages of people working both full-time and part-time based on those who are aged 16 years and over. A full-time and part-time split is not available for the working age population on a consistent basis.

The two tables provided are for the three months ending December in each year from 1992 to 2006 and are seasonally adjusted.

Each month the ONS publishes employment levels and rates and full-time and part-time employment in the Labour Market Statistics First Release available within the attached link (see tables 2 and 3) http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsuk0207.pdf.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: People in employment by gender United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	All persons			Men			Women		
Three months ending December each year	All[1,2]	Full-time[2]	Part-time[2]	All[1,2]	Full-time[2]	Part-time[2]	All[1,2]	Full-time[2]	Part-time[2]
1992	24,569	19,329	6,006	13,613	12,903	976	10,956	6,426	5,030
1993	24,548	19,167	6,158	13,572	12,775	1,051	10,976	6,392	5,107
1994	24,802	19,339	6,239	13,741	12,925	1,109	11,062	6,434	5,130
1995	25,190	19,497	6,482	13,905	12,994	1,179	11,285	6,503	5,303
1996	25,435	19,591	6,606	14,000	12,990	1,278	11,435	6,601	5,328
1997	25,848	19,993	6,643	14,259	13,272	1,265	11,589	6,721	5,378
1998	26,150	20,169	6,777	14,387	13,340	1,311	11,764	6,829	5,466
1999	26,474	20,447	6,855	14,545	13,478	1,359	11,929	6,970	5,496
2000	26,705	20,548	6,977	14,666	13,568	1,369	12,038	6,979	5,608

Table 1: People in employment by gender United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Three months ending December each year	All persons			Men			Women		
	All[1,2]	Full-time[3]	Part-time[3]	All[1,2]	Full-time[3]	Part-time[3]	All[1,2]	Full-time[3]	Part-time[3]
2001	26,889	20,753	7,021	14,748	13,612	1,433	12,140	7,141	5,588
2002	27,173	20,904	7,170	14,913	13,653	1,573	12,261	7,251	5,597
2003	27,289	20,920	7,343	14,929	13,692	1,568	12,360	7,229	5,775
2004	27,588	21,268	7,329	15,103	13,806	1,640	12,485	7,462	5,689
2005	27,640	21,464	7,294	15,133	13,848	1,667	12,507	7,616	5,627
2006	27,832	21,544	7,492	15,260	13,938	1,723	12,572	7,605	5,770

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Includes those who did not state whether they worked full or part-time.
[3] Full and part-time includes people aged 16 and over and is based on respondents' self assessment, not on hours worked.

Note:
Full-time and part-time levels do not sum to the total because the total is based on the working age population whilst full-time and part-time estimates are based on those aged 16 years and over.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2: Employment rates and the percentages of people working by gender United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

Percentage

Three months ending December each year	All persons			Men			Women		
	All[1,2]	Full-time[3,4]	Part-time[3,4]	All[1,2]	Full-time[3,4]	Part-time[3,4]	All[1,2]	Full-time[3,4]	Part-time[3,4]
1992	70.4	76	24	75.3	93	7	65.2	56	44
1993	70.3	76	24	75.2	92	8	65.2	56	44
1994	70.9	76	24	76.0	92	8	65.4	56	44
1995	71.8	75	25	76.7	92	8	66.5	55	45
1996	72.2	75	25	77.0	91	9	67.1	55	45
1997	73.1	75	25	78.2	91	9	67.7	56	45
1998	73.7	75	25	78.6	91	9	68.4	56	45
1999	74.2	75	25	79.1	91	9	69.0	56	44
2000	74.4	75	25	79.2	91	9	69.2	55	45
2001	74.4	75	25	79.1	91	10	69.3	56	44
2002	74.7	75	26	79.5	90	10	69.6	56	44
2003	74.6	74	26	79.1	90	10	69.9	56	44
2004	74.9	74	26	79.3	89	11	70.2	57	43
2005	74.5	75	25	78.8	89	11	69.8	58	43
2006	74.5	74	26	78.8	89	11	69.9	57	43

[1] In employment as a percentage of all persons of working age which includes men aged 16-64 and women 16-59.
[2] Includes those who did not state whether they worked full or part-time.
[3] Full and part-time as a percentage of all in employment.
[4] Full and part-time includes people aged 16 and over and is based on respondents' self assessment, not on hours worked.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* total employment rate and *(b)* total full-time employment rate in the (i) 10 local authority areas and (ii) 10 local authority wards in the UK with the (A) highest and (B) lowest employment rates for the latest year for which information is available. [124620]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the (a) total employment rate and (b) total full-time employment rate in the (i) 10 local authority areas and (ii) 10 local authority wards in the UK with the (A) highest and (B) lowest employment rates for the latest year for which information is available. (124620)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of employment for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows employment rates, for persons of working age, for the 10 local authorities, in Great Britain, with the highest employment rates and the ten authorities with the lowest rates for the 12 months ending in June 2006 from the APS. Table 1 also shows the number of persons, aged 16 and over, in full-time and part-time employment expressed as a proportion of the total number of employed persons aged 16 and over.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 2, attached, shows employment rates for persons of working age for persons of working age for the ten wards, in Great Britain, with the highest employment rates and the ten wards with the lowest rates from the 2001 Census as reliable ward data is not available from the APS. For clarity, the local authority of the ward is shown. Table 2 also shows the number of persons, aged 16 to 74, in full-time and part-time employment expressed as a proportion of the total number of employed persons aged 16 to 74.

Table 1: Employment rates and the percentages of people working full-time and part-time in the ten highest and ten lowest local authorities; Great Britain: July 2005 to June 2006

		Percentage
	Proportion of all In employment[1] aged 16 and over who are	
Local authority	*Working age[2] employment rate*	*Full-time[3]*	*Part-time[3]*
Ten highest			
South Northamptonshire	91.8	71	29
Blaby	89.0	73	27
Cotswold	88.5	66	34
West Oxfordshire	87.1	71	29
Orkney Islands	86.2	65	35
Surrey Heath	86.1	69	31
Bromsgrove	86.1	72	28
Eden	86.0	72	28
Shetland Islands	86.0	72	28
South Bucks	85.5	71	30
Ten lowest			
Barking and Dagenham	62.8	79	20
Birmingham	62.8	74	26
Islington	62.5	86	15
Liverpool	61.1	80	20
Merthyr Tydfil	60.9	74	26
Lambeth	60.2	82	18
Newham	58.6	78	22
West Somerset	58.3	53	47
Hackney	55.7	82	18
Tower Hamlets	54.4	77	23

[1] Includes those who did not state whether they worked full-time or part-time.
[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[3] Based on respondents' self assessment not on hours worked.
Estimates are subject to sampling variability. Excludes Isles of Scilly.
Source:
Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Employment rates and the percentages of people working full-time and part-time in the ten highest and ten lowest wards; Great Britain; 2001

			Percentage
			Proportion of all in employment aged 16 to 74 who are
Ward[1]	*Local authority*	*Working age[2,3] Employment rate*	*Full-time[4]*	*Part-time[4]*
Ten highest				
Tresco	Isles of Scilly	98	85	15
St. Martin's	Isles of Scilly	97	75	25
Walbrook	City of London	97	96	4
St. Agnes	Isles of Scilly	92	79	21
Donington and Albrighton North	Bridgnorth	91	89	11
Brize Norton and Shilton	West Oxfordshire	90	88	12
Didcot Ladygrove	South Oxfordshire	89	85	15
The Lower Tarrants	North Dorset	89	88	12
Bicester South	Cherwell	89	85	15
Garelochhead and Cove	Argyll and Bute	89	90	10
Ten lowest[5]				
Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey	Nottingham	33	61	39
St. Andrews Central	Fife	33	51	49
Market	Cambridge	31	76	24
Heslington	York	31	51	49
Newnham	Cambridge	30	71	29
St. Nicholas	Durham	29	59	41
Kocle	Newcastle-under-Lyme	28	44	56
Carfax	Oxford	26	73	27

Table 2: Employment rates and the percentages of people working full-time and part-time in the ten highest and ten lowest wards: Great Britain: 2001

			Percentage	
			Proportion of all in employment aged 16 to 74 who are	
Ward[1]	*Local authority*	*Working age*[2,3] *Employment rate*	*Full-time*[4]	*Part-time*[4]
Elvet	Durham	22	54	46
Holywell	Oxford	12	60	40

[1] Census Area Statistics wards.
[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[3] Census outputs present full-time students as economically active. In this table they are included as employed.
[4] Full-time is defined as working over 30 hours per week.
[5] These wards have a high proportion of full-time university students.
Source:
2001 Census

Government Contracts: Equal Opportunities

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance the Office of Government Commerce has produced on making the award of public contracts conditional on the bidding private sector firms meeting equality or diversity criteria or targets. [128639]

John Healey: Social issues—such as equality and diversity considerations—can be taken into account in the procurement process where they are relevant to the subject of the particular contract. OGC published a guidance note, 'Social Issues in Purchasing', in January 2006 on the scope to include social considerations in the procurement process.

The 'Social Issues in Purchasing' note can be found at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social_Issues_in_Purchasing.pdf

Institute of British Studies

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made towards establishing an Institute of British Studies. [125775]

John Healey: A range of organisations is advancing proposals for such an institute.

Lakshmi Mittal

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has met Lakshmi Mittal since 1997. [111351]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Migrant Workers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with counterparts in the Home Office regarding recent changes to the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme. [119134]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials are in regular contact with colleagues in other Departments.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to his answer of 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 727W, on ministerial travel, which publication lists the overseas visits of *(a)* the Paymaster General, *(b)* the Financial Secretary and *(c)* the Economic Secretary; and if he will make a statement. [109204]

John Healey: As with all inquiries relating to the cost of ministerial travel, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the information the Government have published on an annual basis since 1999, listing overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Office for National Statistics: Internet

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to improve the user-friendliness of the Office for National Statistics website. [127826]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 21 March 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking, what steps are being taken to improve the user-friendliness of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website, I am replying in her absence. (127826)

The existing ONS website is over five years old and at the time it was created it was rated as one of the best Government websites. However, internet technology changes extremely quickly and we recognise that the website is now in need of updating. ONS is part-way through a project to develop a new website to meet the needs of users. The new website is being designed to be effective and easy to use, and will also need to take on board organisational changes to ONS resulting from the Statistics and Registration Service Bill. Rollout of the new site is due to start in 2008.

Although our main efforts are devoted to developing the new website we are not neglecting the existing site. We have an ongoing programme of refinement to make modest improvements for users. We continue to monitor performance and to keep content topical: in particular the homepage is updated almost daily to provide easy access to the latest data and commentary.

Official Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many visits to India *(a)* HM Treasury civil servants and *(b)* special advisers took in preparation for his recent visit to India; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each visit. [111924]

John Healey: While Treasury officials have visited India, there were no preparatory visits specific to the Chancellor's visit.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2269W, on Official Visits: USA, whether he stayed at the British embassy on the visit in April 2006. [128898]

John Healey: We do not provide details of Ministers' accommodation arrangements.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of Partnerships UK's assessment of the potential for private investment in the construction of the infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics; and if he will make a statement; [128408]

(2) what assessment his Department has undertaken of the potential for private investment in the construction of *(a)* venues and *(b)* the Olympic Village for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics; what the outcomes were of such assessments; and if he will make a statement. [128409]

John Healey: The potential level of private investment in the construction of different elements of the Olympic Park is subject to commercial negotiations with private developers.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he had first sight of the original budget for the 2012 Olympics prior to its approval by Cabinet for submission to the International Olympic Committee. [128418]

John Healey: The original budget for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games was developed from 2002 onwards.

Smith Institute

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many events his Department held in conjunction with the Smith Institute as part of the *(a)* Gowers, *(b)* Leitch, *(c)* Cox, *(d)* Cave and *(e)* Stern reviews; [123341]

(2) whether responses to consultations as part of the *(a)* Gowers Review, *(b)* Leitch Review, *(c)* Cox Review, *(d)* Cave Review and *(e)* Stern Review were received from the Smith Institute. [123342]

John Healey: The Department held no events and received no responses.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1134W, on the Smith Institute, which charities applied to hold events at No. 11 Downing street in each year since 1996 but had their request turned down. [123617]

John Healey: A list of all the organisations which have applied to use No. 11 Downing street is not available. However, the Treasury tries to accommodate all charities which have applied to do so.

Unemployment: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many economically inactive people of working age there were in Peterborough constituency in age groups *(a)* 18 to 24 years, *(b)* 25 to 50 years and *(c)* 50 years or more in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [128200]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 21 March 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many economically inactive people of working age there were in Peterborough constituency in age groups (a) 18 to 24 years, (b) 25 to 50 years and (c) 50 years or more in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (128200)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of inactivity from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The attached table shows the number of economically inactive persons aged 16 to 24, 25 to 49, 50 to retirement age and for all persons of working age resident in the Peterborough constituency from the annual local area LFS for the 12-month periods ending in February from 1997 to 2004 and from the APS for the 12-month periods ending in March from 2005 to 2006. These numbers are also expressed as a percentage of the relevant population.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

Table 1: Economic inactivity by age group for the Peterborough parliamentary constituency

Thousand

	16 to 24		25 to 49		50 to retirement age[2]		All persons of working age[3]	
12 months ending	Level	Rate (percentage)	Level	Rate (percentage)	Level	Rate (percentage)	Level	Rate (percentage)
February 1997	3	22	8	22	3	31	14	23

Table 1: Economic inactivity by age group for the Peterborough parliamentary constituency

Thousand

	16 to 24		25 to 49		50 to retirement age[2]		All persons of working age[2]	
12 months ending	*Level*	*Rate (percentage)*	*Level*	*Rate (percentage)*	*Level*	*Rate (percentage)*	*Level*	*Rate (percentage)*
February 1998	3	22	8	24	4	33	15	25
February 1999	3	30	6	17	3	34	13	22
February 2000	3	22	4	10	6	57	13	21
February 2001	3	24	6	17	4	32	13	22
February 2002	2	23	6	17	4	30	13	21
February 2003	3	22	6	16	4	27	12	20
February 2004	3	25	5	15	3	24	11	20
March 2005	3	31	6	18	3	26	12	22
March 2006	4	36	6	18	3	25	13	23

[1] Males aged 50 to 64 and females aged 50 to 59.
[2] Males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates overtime should be treated with caution.

Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

V

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he attended the parliamentary reception for the charity V in February. [127210]

John Healey *[holding answer 13 March 2007]*: The Chancellor did not attend.

Written Questions

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received representations from the Leader of the House on his Department's answers to written parliamentary questions. [128803]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide variety of issues relating to parliamentary business with their counterparts in other Departments, including the Privy Council Office.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on delays to mail sent to the United Kingdom from UK forces deployed abroad; and if he will make a statement. [128046]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has received no representations concerning delays to inbound mail to the UK from HM forces deployed abroad. Mail returning to the UK, if not addressed to other BFPO numbers, is collected and processed by Royal Mail Group for delivery to UK addresses.

Departments: Shipping

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which merchant shipping vessels were *(a)* chartered and *(b)* used by his Department in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; and what the (A) name, (B) flag and (C) type was of each vessel. [127972]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2208W, for vessels chartered up to mid-February 2006.

The additional information requested is shown in the following table:

Date	*Name*	*Type*	*Flag*
December 2005-April 2006	Sloman Commander	MPP Tweendecker	Antigua and Barbuda
January-May 2006	Skaftafel	Tweendecker	Gibraltar
27 February 2006	MaryM	Platform Supply Vessel	UK
March-April 2006	Hansaland	Roll On Roll Off (Roro)	Bahamas
March-April 2006	Zeran	Roro	Maltese
29 March 2006	Condock 1	Heavylift Ship	Dutch Antilles
April-June 2006	Leliegracht	Tweendecker	Dutch
26 April 2006	Toisa Coral	Platform Supply Vessel	UK
31 May 2006	Laura M	Platform Supply Vessel	UK
19 June 2006	Rebecca M	Platform Supply Vessel	UK
July-August 2006	Thorkis	MPP Tweendecker	Isle of Man
13 July 2006	Ormonby Cross and Kincardine	Tug	UK
13 July 2006	Gironde	Tug	Malta

Date	Name	Type	Flag
14 August 2006	Lesley M	Platform Supply Vessel	UK
September 2006	Kilcoe	RORO	Irish
15 September 2006	Valiant B	Tug	UK
22 September 2006	Stevns Icecap	Tug	Danish
4 October 2006	Abeille Liberte	Tug	France
November 2006 onwards	Maersk Rapier	Tanker	UK
November 2006-January 2007	CEC Faith	Tweendecker	Bahamas
22 November 2006	Mary M	Platform Supply Vessel	UK
10 December 2006	Lesley M	Platform Supply Vessel	UK
19 December 2006	Vos Shelter	Platform Supply Vessel	Dutch
January 2007	CEC Svendborg	Tweendecker	Bahamas
4 January 2007	Vos Sympathy	Platform Supply Vessel	Dutch
March-May 2007	Paimpol	Rolo	Antigua
2 March 2007	Mary M	Platform Supply Vessel	UK
9 March 2007	Carlo Magno	Tug	Italian

Gibraltar: Military Bases

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilians are employed at the dockyard in Gibraltar. [128095]

Mr. Ingram: Further to the answer I gave my right hon. Friend on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1657W, I am not able to confirm how many civilians are employed at the dockyard in Gibraltar because the facility is operated by a private company. They, and not the Ministry of Defence (MOD), employ the civilians who work there.

The number of civilian personnel employed by the MOD in Gibraltar is listed in the following table[1], showing both core MOD staff, and locally engaged civilians as at 1 January 2007. These figures represent all civilian personnel in Gibraltar. Details for specific areas such as the dockyard are not held centrally.

[1] All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

	Full-time equivalents[2]
Core MOD	60
Locally engaged civilians	960
Total	1,020

[2] Full-time equivalence counts part-time staff by the number of hours they work as a proportion of their full-time conditioned hours.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the adequacy of work carried out by the contractors fitting suppressant foam to Hercules aircraft. [128356]

Mr. Ingram: We are satisfied that the contractor is applying quality assurance processes robustly and that the fitting of explosive suppressant foam to Hercules aircraft will be completed within the agreed timeframe.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the value of the Hercules aircraft ZH876 and its contents that was written off and destroyed following the landing accident north of Basra. [128945]

Mr. Ingram: The current market value of a C-130J aircraft is in the region of £45 million.

Identification Friend Foe Systems

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he expects the Battlefield Target Identification System to supersede the Bowman and Coalition Blue Force Situational Awareness Demonstrator; [122218]

(2) whether he expects the Battlefield Target Identification System to be fully inter-operable with *(a)* the United States and *(b)* other NATO countries; [122220]

(3) when he expects the Battlefield Target Identification System to come into service; and if he will make a statement. [122221]

Mr. Ingram: The Battlefield Target Identification System (BTIS) is intended to help identify friendly forces, helping to reduce the risk of fratricide. It will complement other systems providing better situational awareness and also contributing to reduced risk of fratricide, such as Bowman and the Coalition Blue Force Situational Awareness Demonstrator, not replace them.

The BTIS programme has not yet reached its main investment decision point and in line with our normal practice no in-service date will be confirmed until that point. We fully recognise the importance of any UK combat identification system being inter-operable with US and other NATO and coalition partners.

Iraq: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mastiff protected patrol vehicles have reached the front-line troops in Iraq. [128856]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 20 March 2007]*: The first Mastiff vehicles were delivered to Iraq at the end of 2006 and are being used on operations.

I am withholding details on the number of vehicles that are currently deployed as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our Armed Forces.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from Welsh regiments he expects to be included in the next roulement of troops that will be sent to Iraq in June; and if he will make a statement. [128426]

Mr. Ingram: A total of 640 soldiers from the Battlegroup headquarters and three armoured infantry companies of the Second Battalion, the Royal Welsh Regiment and one infantry company of the First Battalion, the Royal Welsh Regiment will be deploying to Iraq in June as announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence in his statement on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 59WS.

Mine Clearing Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many mine clearing vehicles were sold from his Department's inventory in each of the last four years. [128282]

Mr. Ingram: The only mine clearing vehicles that MOD has sold in the last four years are three Aardvark Flail units which were sold in 2005.

Royal Naval Hospital Haslar

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to relocate the Royal Hospital Haslar. [128230]

Derek Twigg: None. The Royal Hospital Haslar will lose its formal military status on 31 March. However, we expect that it will continue to operate much as it does now until late 2009, with the support of military doctors and nurses, providing health care to the local community and, in very small numbers, military patients, until Portsmouth Hospitals Trust is able to relocate its clinical activity elsewhere. The hospital will then be closed.

Military doctors and nurses will continue to maintain their skills and treat patients in the hospitals of the Portsmouth Hospital Trust and other NHS trusts which host Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs). Military patients will continue to receive treatment from the MDHU host trusts and other parts of the NHS.

Selly Oak Hospital

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* treatment of wounded servicemen and women is organised at the NHS Selly Oak hospital. [128483]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Military patients admitted to Selly Oak hospital, or other hospitals of the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust, are accommodated in wards appropriate to their clinical need. The largest number of operational casualties have required treatment as trauma orthopaedic cases. They are therefore the focus for the military managed ward that has been developed at Selly Oak to enable military patients to be accommodated together in a single ward, where it is clinically appropriate to do so.

The military managed ward offers the opportunity to accommodate military patients together in six-bedded bays or, when necessary, in side isolation rooms. A works project, now out to tender, will change the layout of the ward to produce a separate area for military patients, utilising the two bays and isolation rooms at the far end of the ward.

The treatment of military patients is the responsibility of the NHS Trust. A military trauma co-ordinator is responsible for liaising with clinical colleagues, military and civilian, to provide advice on Service issues and ensure that military aspects of military patients' treatment are fully taken into account. On the military managed ward, military nurses will always be on duty and currently include 19 qualified nurses and 5 health care assistants. They work closely together with NHS colleagues to provide nursing care, with special emphasis on military patients. A military ward manager, supported by three military deputies, is responsible for all aspects of the military presence on the ward.

Military patients at Selly Oak and elsewhere in the Birmingham area are supported by the work of two full-time community psychiatric nurses and four welfare officers of the Defence Medical Welfare Service. Families of injured Service personnel are provided with welfare support and accommodation when necessary. Accommodation available includes seven flats, plus a number of family rooms.

We shall continue to enhance the capability of the military managed ward and the care available for all military patients. The development of the ward would not have been possible without the close and enthusiastic support of the NHS Trust.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Day Care

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the availability of wraparound child care. [126068]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My Department works closely with the Department for Education and Skills on the delivery of the Government's ambitious 10-year child care strategy, including the extension of wraparound child care.

The Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education and Skills share two PSA targets, to improve outcomes for young children and to increase the stock and the take up of formal child care as a contribution towards reducing the proportion of children living in households where no one is working.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the availability of child care to parents of children aged between 11 and 16 years old, with particular reference to during school holidays. [127593]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally. From April 2007 all English local authorities will have a duty to carry out an assessment of the sufficiency of child care in their area. This will involve a detailed assessment of the demand for, and supply of, child care in their area, including holiday provision for children aged 11 to 14 (and up to 18 if disabled). This will enable local authorities to plan how to secure sufficient child care and establish the services parents and children need.

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on progress towards the Government's target to reduce the time taken to process child maintenance applications. [125832]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 March 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, about the Government's target to reduce the time taken to process child maintenance applications. [125852]

The Child Support Agency has been set six targets by the Secretary of State for 2006/07, which were published in the Agency's Business Plan, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link: www.csa.gov.uk/pdf/english/reports/plan0607.pdf.

Two of these targets relate to the processing and clearing of applications received since the new scheme was introduced in March 2003.

The first concerns the volume of applications being cleared and states that: by 31 March 2007, the Agency will have reduced the volume of uncleared new scheme applications by 25 per cent. of the amount outstanding by the end of March 2006. The second concerns the speed with which new applications should be processed and states that: by 31 March 2007, the Agency will clear 55 per cent. of the new applications within 12 weeks of receipt and 80 per cent. within 26 weeks.

The Agency's latest performance against these targets was published in table 2.1 and table 3 of the December 2006 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_dec06.asp.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of lone parents whose youngest child is over 11 are receiving income support; and how many and what proportion are *(a)* carers for a disabled child and *(b)* have a disability themselves. [121529]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

Lone parents with youngest child over 11

	Number	*Percentage*
Claiming income support	108,950	19.1
Caring for a disabled child	105,000	25.1
Report disability themselves	160,000	28.1

Notes:

1. The number of income support lone parents is reported using DWP administrative data.
2. Lone parent population data is taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2006 Q2—it indicates there were 570,000 lone parents with a youngest child aged over 11. In total there were 1.78 million lone parents.
3. The second quarter of 2006 covers April to June, while the administrative data are taken from August 2006. These figures are not directly comparable. The figure indicating the estimated proportion of lone parents claiming income support should be considered as indicative only.
4. Information concerning the number of lone parents with a disabled child is reported using the Family and Children's Study 2004 and includes working and non-working lone parents with a disabled child. Population estimates have been produced by grossing up from a sample of 7,000 families, so there will be a margin of error around these estimates and they should be treated with caution.
5. The number and proportion of lone parents with a disability is taken from the LFS 2006 Q2. This includes those who self-report as DDA or work-limiting disabled, or both.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether mechanisms are in place for jobseekers to recommence their benefits after ceasing short-term employment without having to sign on again in person; and if he will make a statement. [125667]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There is no mechanism in place for jobseekers to recommence their jobseeker's allowance claim without having to register in person.

To ensure people are able to reinstate their benefit claim quickly after a short break, Jobcentre Plus fast-track people through what is known as a rapid re-claim process. This is used for people who are returning to benefit within 12 weeks and whose circumstances (in relation to the claim) are unchanged. Rapid re-claim supports the incentive to take up employment, including short-term periods of full-time work, by allowing the completion of a shortened claim form. To be able to move quickly back into benefit also eases the concerns felt about re-claiming benefits if the work suddenly comes to an end.

While rapid re-claim still requires a face-to-face contact—needed to put in place things such as the jobseeker's agreement, which is a legal requirement—the process is much streamlined and involves a shorter interview and much reduced paperwork. Interviews are typically undertaken with 48 hours and people being required to confirm their circumstances remain as previously stated in writing.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people reported benefit thefts via the Department's benefit theft website in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124705]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Number of benefit thefts reported to the DWP Targeting Benefit Thieves website between January 2006 and December 2006

	Number
January	1759
February	2302
March	2506
April	2481
May	3574
June	2869
July	2591
August	2962
September	2478
October	3670
November	3334
December	2284

Note:
Figures include both benefit and instrument of payment cases.
Source:
Fraud Information by Sector

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed to answer benefit theft hotline calls in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124706]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Staff employed to answer national benefit fraud hotline calls

Month	Total full-time equivalents
2006	
February	43.45
March	37.78
April	40.47
May	39.79
June	42.27
July	52.20
August	51.96
September	45.87
October	46.83
November	62.92
December	66.68
2007	
January	65.01

Source:
National Benefit Fraud Hotline

Written Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 111479, on the quality of new deal programmes, tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham on 23 January 2007. [126116]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I replied to the hon. Gentleman on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1733W.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Construction: Research

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the percentage of the construction industry's total value which was represented by research and development spending in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [127406]

Margaret Hodge: The DTI does not collect estimates of the percentage of the construction industry's total value represented by research and development (R and D) spending. However, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects statistics which are indicative of formal Business Enterprise R and D (BERD) as follows:

ONS BERD

	Construction contracting—R and D as percentage of gross value added
2001	0.06
2002	0.06
2003	0.05
2004	[1]
2005	0.05

[1] BERD data for 2004 are withheld to avoid disclosure of figures in which the returns of individual businesses could be identified.
Source: ONS - Research and Development in UK Businesses (MA14)

Although the Government's aim is to raise the level of research and innovation across the UK economy, it is difficult to capture innovation in project-based activities such as construction. The Department's innovation survey shows that 44 per cent. of construction enterprises were involved in some form of innovation activity between 2002 and 2004. The sector's main contractors and specialist engineering innovation activity is largely of a site-based problem-solving form, although some also undertake formal research and development.

Data Protection: Costs

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Data Protection Act to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125591]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

The regulatory impact assessment for directive 95/46/EC (the data protection directive) includes a compliance cost assessment, a copy of which is available in the Libraries of both Houses.

This assessment lists the total start-up costs of the legislation as £836 million and £630 million in recurring annual costs. There was no assessment of the potential costs to regulators.

In December 2006 the DCA published a report on its participation in the cross-Government administrative burdens measurement exercise, which was intended to measure the administrative costs to businesses, charities and the voluntary sector of complying with Government regulation. This measured the costs to business of complying with the Data Protection Act

and associated secondary legislation as £55.9 million in recurring annual administrative costs. However, it should be noted that due to the methodology used during this exercise this figure should be regarded as indicative and not statistically robust.

The full report can be accessed at:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/pubs/reports/r2r_mexrc_rep.pdf.

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints were received by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have been received in 2006-07 to date. [121671]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The central Department (also covering the Small Business Service) does not collate figures on complaints. Figures for the Department's other agencies are as follows:

			Patent Office		
	NWML[1]	Insolvency service	Formal	Informal	Companies House
1997-98	1	927	20	94	[2]—
2001-02	3	595	27	33	29,008
2005-06	0	428	10	[3]9	34,804
2006-07	5	331	31	[3]100	31,875

[1] National Weights and Measures Laboratory

[2] Figures for 1997-98 are not available due to a change in computer software

[3] A high number of these complaints were about the same subject

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the size of the market share of suppliers based in the Channel Islands in the food supplements and herbal remedies mail order sector in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* 2006. [123914]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not held centrally by Government on the amount of food supplements and herbal remedies obtained by mail order from the Channel Islands. No estimate has been made on the size of the market share of suppliers based in the Channel Islands.

East of England Tourist Board: Grants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what key performance indicators have been agreed between the East of England Development Agency and the East of England Tourist Board in respect of the grant of £1 million in the *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 financial year. [124331]

Margaret Hodge: As part of the business plan for tourism, under which the East of England Tourist Board (EET) is tasked with delivering tourism marketing and promotion for the external lending mandate investment, the following key performance indicators were agreed:

Secure at least 10 per cent. private sector cash match-funding and at least 10 per cent. benefit-in-kind for all marketing and PR campaigns.

Achieve a return on investment of 4:1 for all domestic campaigns.

Achieve a return on investment of 25:1 for international campaigns.

Evaluate all PR activity to show where the activity was placed, what message was received and how it was received and what the opportunities of exposure to the message were.

This return is then measured through capturing information from the visitors via research (online and at the area/destination and via the industry) as their reasons for visiting and the spend per head.

These key performance indicators are valid for the lifetime of the agreement between EEDA and EET which is until March 2008.

Enterprise Capital Fund

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been invested in *(a)* the Enterprise Capital Fund providing early stage funding for companies developing sustainable technologies and *(b)* other Enterprise Capital funds. [125778]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows:

(a) Government and private investors have commited to invest up to £30 million in the 21st Century Sustainable Technology Growth Fund.

(b) Investment committed by Government and private investors into the other four funds currently awarded Enterprise Capital Fund status totals £95 million.

These funds were launched in the second half of 2006 and are expected to invest the commitment over the next seven to eight years.

Government Contracts: Equal Opportunities

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what guidance his Department, its agencies or sponsored public bodies produced on making the award of public contracts conditional on the bidding private sector firms meeting equality or diversity criteria or targets. [128666]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry has recently reviewed its procurement procedures as part of its work to implement the public sector duties to promote equality of opportunity for race, (imposed by the Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000)), and disability, (imposed by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination Act 2000)).

The Department's invitation to tender documents now contain information alerting potential contractors to the need to demonstrate an understanding and application of the disability and race duties in the services they provide or are seeking to provide. This information makes it clear that while contractors are not subject to these public sector duties in an individual capacity, DTI's legal obligations extend to those organisations with whom they contract. In addition, the Department also now requires its top 50 existing suppliers to if requested, provide, management information to demonstrate their compliance with the duties. The Department, in its revised standard terms of contract, has the right to terminate a contract for non-compliance with the duties. These provisions, specific to the duties,

complement the Department's pre-existing anti-discrimination best practice and contractual requirements.

The Department's procurement guidance and documentation is available on the internet for agencies and sponsored bodies to access and apply at their discretion.

The Department does not hold central records of the guidance issued by its sponsored public bodies in this area.

I have asked the chief executives of the executive agencies to respond directly to the hon. Gentleman.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 21 March 2007:

I am responding to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on behalf of Companies House, which is an Executive Agency of the DTI.

Companies House is not a contracting authority in its own right. All of our tenders are issued on behalf of the Secretary of State for the DTI, and as such we do not have our own bespoke invitation to tender documentation but instead utilise the DTI full procurement document set which they provide. These recently updated terms reinforce their, and therefore Companies House's stance on diversity and equality issues in respect of third party suppliers.

Letter from Ron Marchant CB, dated 21 March 2007:

Please see the following, from the Patent Office, in response to your recent parliamentary question.

Written PQ 2006/1636: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, what guidance his Department, its agencies or sponsored public bodies produced on making the award of public contracts conditional on the bidding private sector firms meeting equality or diversity criteria or targets.

The Patent Office, as an Executive Agency of DTI, adopts similar procedures to that of its parent department, using invitation to tender documentation that requests private sector firms to demonstrate compliance with equality or diversity issues. Further, the Patent Office let contracts that are governed by DTI standard terms and conditions of business that address compliance with the Duties, and ensure that evaluation criteria for contract award decisions also address equality or diversity issues.

Letter from Graham Horne, dated 21 March 2007:

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2006/1636) asking about its guidance on making the award of its contracts conditional on the bidding private sector firms meeting equality or diversity criteria or targets.

I can confirm that the Insolvency Service follows the procurement procedures and guidance set down by its parent department, the Department of Trade and Industry, who are responding separately to your question.

Letter from Dr. Jeff Llewellyn, CE, dated 21 March 2007:

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply on behalf of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) to your question regarding the guidance his Department, its agencies or sponsored public bodies produce on making the award of public contracts conditional on the bidding private sector firms meeting equality or diversity criteria or targets.

The National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) uses the same guidance and documentation as the Department of Trade and Industry. Details of the guidance and documentation were set out in the answer to written PQ2006/1636 provided to you recently by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Manufacturing: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to encourage *(a)* research and development, *(b)* manufacturing and *(c)* international investment in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex. [125487]

Margaret Hodge: The DTI provides support to encourage research and development, manufacturing and international investment in Eastbourne and East Sussex through a range of national and regional programmes and initiatives:

The Government have introduced and improved the R and D tax credit to enable companies in all regions to carry out research and development projects, the credit is presently worth £600 million per year in Government support. In 2006-07 we are providing £3.3 billion to support UK science which includes £2.3 million to the Technology Programme which is to support the UK research base and £430 million to the Technology Programme which is 600 collaborative R and D projects across 40 technology areas, enabling manufacturers to capitalise on key technologies.

Regionally, three programmes are managed by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) on behalf of the Department. These are the Grant for Research and Development, Selective Finance for Investment and the Manufacturing Advisory Service.

In addition, SEEDA provides advice and information via the Business Link network as well as support through programmes such as the Innovation Advisory Service and Enterprise Hub Programme, among others. SEEDA also manages regional delivery of the national inward investment promotion framework which is operated by UK Trade and Investment. The framework seeks to encourage foreign direct investors as well as working directly with relevant partners in the region to encourage appropriate international investment—including into East Sussex.

Regional Government: Northern Region

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total expenditure by *(a)* the Northwest Regional Development Agency, *(b)* One Northeast and *(c)* Yorkshire Forward was on the recent New Local Government Network pamphlet Redesigning Regionalism: leadership and accountability in England's regions. [126911]

Margaret Hodge: Northwest Regional Development Agency, One Northeast and Yorkshire Forward have each contributed £5,000 to the production of the report by the New Local Government Network. The report dealt with the roles of regional development agencies, city regions and regional assemblies and set out a range of options to enhance accountability. These issues reflected the priorities set out in the Local Government White Paper and are also being considered in the sub-national review as part of the comprehensive spending review process.

Space Technology: European Union

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Government have contributed to the EU space programme site in French Guyiana since its inception. [128569]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK Government have contributed €140.9 million to the European Space Agency (ESA)—not EU—programme supporting the site in French Guiana since 1976 when the programme started.

Trade Promotion

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what requests he has received for Ministers to visit non-EU countries on trade promotion visits since May 2005; [124805]

(2) which countries Ministers in his Department have visited on trade promotion visits in each year since 2000; which Ministers visited each; and on what date each visit took place. [124807]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* There is no central record of ministerial visits, and it would incur disproportionate cost to obtain this information. All ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers. Since 1999, the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

Under-represented Groups

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research his Department has carried out into the barriers to enterprise experienced by under-represented groups. [117322]

Margaret Hodge: Research to increase our understanding of the barriers to enterprise for under-represented groups has been carried out within the following research projects.

Women's Business Ownership: Recent research and policy development

Ethnic Minority Businesses and ICT Focus Group Research

Engaging Black and Minority Ethnic Entrepreneurs in Business Support

Enterprise Dynamics in the 20 per cent. Most Deprived Wards in England

Business-led Regeneration: Case Studies in four urban areas

Policy Interactions and Outcomes in Deprived Areas

Ethnic Minority Businesses in England; Report on the Annual Small Business

Survey 2003 Ethnic Boost

Evaluation of the Phoenix Development Fund

Evaluation of City Growth Strategies

Evaluation of Phoenix Fund support for Community Development Finance

Institutions

Finance for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: A Report on the 2004 UK

Survey of SME Finances

Myths surrounding starting and running a business

Household Survey of Entrepreneurship 2005

Tackling Mental Health Issues Through Enterprise

Annual Small Business Survey [for each year over the last three years]

Full details of these and other research studies carried out on enterprise issues can be found at the Small Business Service website:

www.sbs.gov.uk

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Absent Voting: Prisoners

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate her Department has made of how many UK citizens serving a punishment in a foreign prison voted by post or proxy in *(a)* the 2005 General Election and *(b)* 2006 local elections. [128882]

Bridget Prentice: The details of voters who are registered at overseas addresses are not held centrally. Therefore no estimate has been made.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which postal companies handle mail dispatched by her Department and its agencies. [128247]

Vera Baird: My Department uses two postal companies to handle mail despatched by the Department and its agencies. The service providers are Royal Mail and DX Network Services.

Election Petitions

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what representations her Department has received from Equifax on the reliability of Election petitions. [128883]

Bridget Prentice: I am not aware that Equifax has made any such representations.

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what submissions her Department has made to the Council of Europe on electoral fraud in the last six months. [128877]

Bridget Prentice: I, and officials from my Department, met with the Council of Europe Delegation during their visit to the UK on 26-28 February. My officials have also contributed to Council of Europe seminars on electoral modernisation, which have included discussions on election security.

Electoral Systems: Reform

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether she plans to implement the proposals of the Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life made on 27 February 2007 on the electoral system. [128893]

Bridget Prentice: The Government will respond formally to the Committee's report in due course.

Legal Opinion

Ms Buck: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many clients received Level One advice in each English region in each of the last five years. [128673]

Vera Baird: Level One work in the Not-for-Profit contract allows providers to spend up to 10 per cent. of their casework time on short matters that do not require an assessment of financial eligibility.

Not-for-Profit providers record the number of hours undertaken at Level One, not the number of cases. The number of hours worked under Level One in the Not-for-Profit contract since 2002 is set out in the table. Data prior to this date are not available.

	Hours
2002-03	32,601
2003-04	35,347
2004-05	44,345
2005-06	52,723

Data broken down by region can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Under the Legal Service Commission's Funding Code, the first level of legal aid advice, Legal Help, is also referred to as Level One. This answer refers to the Level One work as defined in the Not-for-Profit contract only.

Small Claims: Personal Injury

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what date her Department plans to announce its findings on the appropriateness of raising the small claims limit for personal injury claims on the small claims track. [128769]

Vera Baird: The Government have been considering all the case track limits and intend to publish a consultation paper in April.

Voting Rights: Commonwealth

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which Commonwealth countries have reciprocal agreements with the UK on residential qualifications for voting in *(a)* local elections and *(b)* national elections. [128768]

Bridget Prentice: I am not aware of any formal reciprocal agreements with any Commonwealth country. The Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that all Commonwealth citizens who are lawfully resident here are entitled to vote in parliamentary and local elections. Decisions about the voting rights of British citizens resident in other Commonwealth countries are for the individual countries concerned.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what average time his Department took to process an inter-country adoption in each of the last five years from *(a)* the time of the original adoption panel and *(b)* the sending of documentation to the other country involved; and if he will make a statement. [127394]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not record information on the time period between the date of a prospective adopter's adoption panel and the receipt of their inter-country adoption application papers in this Department. Information on the processing time in each of the last five years between receipt of applications in this Department and the papers being sent to country, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many learners *(a)* started and *(b)* successfully completed the framework for (i) apprenticeships and (ii) advanced apprenticeships in each year between 1997 and 2006. [127430]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Figures for learners starting and achieving apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships can be derived from the work based learning (WBL) individualised learner record (ILR). The WBL ILR was collated for the first time in 2002-03 and figures are presented from that time.

The following table shows the number of starters and achievers for apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships 2002-03 to 2005-06.

	Advanced apprenticeship		*Apprenticeship*	
	Number of starters	*Number of achievers*	*Number of starters*	*Number of achievers*
2002-03	48,410	25,250	119,210	38,180
2003-04	56,960	23,820	136,600	45,540
2004-05	51,050	25,950	132,220	61,190
2005-06	52,130	32,990	122,850	77,180

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 learners.

The number of learners who started an apprenticeship and the number of achievers in each year are mutually exclusive. This combination of figures is not used to calculate performance information for WBL.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how long it took on average to produce a section 7 case in respect of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service proceedings in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* each of the preceding five years; [126086]

(2) whether he expects any reduction in the number of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service self-employed contractors in 2006-07; [126087]

(3) how many vacancies there are for *(a)* private law and *(b)* public law in each of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service regions. [126089]

Mr. Dhanda: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 20 March 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the three Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently:

126086—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, how long it took on average to produce a section 7 case in respect of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service proceedings in (a) 2006-07 and (b) each of the preceding five years.

CAFCASS does not collect information on the duration of cases and has not done so since it was established in 2001. For the last 3 years, CAFCASS has operated to a guideline that a section 7 report will take on average 25 hours to produce. We operate to a standard of 12 weeks in which to file all private law reports. However, local filing agreements are made between CAFCASS teams and their Courts, and these agreements fluctuate from month to month and case to case. The way the 25 hours work will be distributed across the filing period will also vary from case to case. Urgent cases are always dealt with first.

CAFCASS currently has 72 teams and at 31 January 2007, 30.6% of teams filed their report within 12 weeks. 25% of teams filed within 14 weeks. 43.1% of teams filed within 16 weeks, and 1.3% (1 team) had a filing time of over 16 weeks. This figure varies with demand, for public law cases and other types of reports ordered to be produced by CAFCASS as well as section 7 cases.

126087—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, whether he anticipates any reduction in the number of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service self-employed contractors in 2006-07.

CAFCASS expects that the total number of self-employed contractors for 2006-07 will be 400, a reduction of 37 on 2005-06. Exact figures will not be available until after 31 March 2007, the date which marks the end of the financial year.

126089—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, how many vacancies there are for (a) private law and (b) public law in each of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service regions.

The table below indicates the vacancies as at 31 January 2007. CAFCASS does not categorise practitioners into private and public law.

Region	*Vacancies (whole time equivalents)*
East Midlands	1.5
Eastern	9.4
Greater London	0
North East	1.83
North West	7.3
South East	1.73
South West	2.5
Southern	4.0
West Midlands	4.0
Yorkshire & Humberside	6.0

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether funding for child care is available to parents who accompany their child to the care facility; and if he will make a statement. [128316]

Beverley Hughes: The Government provide funding to local authorities in the form of a General Sure Start Grant, which can be used to support child care locally. Local authorities are free to support parent and toddler groups, where parents remain with their children throughout the session, if they consider it appropriate to do so.

Children's Centres

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect of increased competition for child care places following the increase of Sure Start children centres. [128746]

Beverley Hughes: Our 10 Year Childcare Strategy has highlighted the need for further Government support to increase the child care options open to parents especially in rural or disadvantaged areas. Since April 2005, our emphasis has been on local authorities sustaining existing good quality child care places rather than creating new ones. While Sure Start children's centres in the most disadvantaged areas must offer integrated early learning and day care provision as part of their core services, we have never intended centres to set up in competition with good existing provision. Local authorities must consult private, voluntary and independent providers when planning their children's centres strategy and, by working in partnership with them, plan to make the best use of the experience and expertise of local providers.

The Together for Children consortium, appointed by DfES to support local authorities with their ongoing delivery of Sure Start children's centres, are challenging them to maximise their use of private, voluntary and community sector organisations in delivering children's centre services.

Departmental Statistics

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on statistics relating to the work of his Department in each of the last five years. [107270]

Alan Johnson: There is no definition of the term "statistics relating to the work of the Department" and no centrally held information on either the volume or costs of statistics published each year on this basis.

Estimates for the annual costs of National Statistics are contained the relevant National Statistics annual report and accounts, which are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=1051 .

The last year that they were produced was 2004-05.

Education: Surveys

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007 to question 121412, on the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority curriculum review, if he will place in the Library a copy of the tender document for the contract awarded *(a)* to Ipsos Mori, *(b)* to surveymonkey and *(c)* for the analysis of the responses to the surveymonkey survey. [122667]

Jim Knight: Copies of the invitation to tender documents for the contracts awarded to *(a)* Ipsos Mori and *(c)* for analysis of the responses to the surveymonkey survey, have been placed in the House Library.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority pay an annual subscription to use the surveymonkey technology in its consultations.

English Language: Fees and Charges

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the use of certified pay slips as proof of low pay in order to meet the fee remission requirements for English for speakers of other languages courses. [129041]

Phil Hope: My hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning, who is responsible for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), has held initial discussions on the use of pay slips and a raft of other evidence with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). This is ongoing dialogue and is dependant upon the final report of the Race Equality Impact Assessment. Following its publication, the funding mechanisms for colleges and providers will be clarified by the LSC through further guidance.

English Language: Migrant Workers

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what legal advice his Department has received on the legality of admissions tutors deciding whether to accept a prospective migrant worker on to a free literacy course or a fee-paying English for speakers of other languages course. [127199]

Phil Hope: Admissions are a matter for individual institutions and the Department for Education and Skills has not sought advice on this specific issue.

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) guidance to providers is clear that providers should base the acceptance of any learner on to a course based on the outcome of a formal initial assessment of their learning needs and the aspirations of that learner.

Literacy and ESOL learning programmes are different in terms of the content and learner support they offer and we would expect providers to help learners make the right choice of learning programme based on the potential of the course to meet their needs and enable them to achieve a qualification and progress.

Gershon Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what efficiency savings have been made in his Department and its associated public bodies as a result of the Gershon review; and if he will make a statement. [108366]

Bill Rammell: The Department is reporting progress against our efficiency target through existing departmental reporting processes. We reported most recently in the Department's 2006 autumn performance report 2005 and will report further progress in the 2007 departmental performance report that we expect to publish in May.

Overseas Students: English Language

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on the extension of self declaration as a means of verifying students' eligibility for English for speakers of other languages courses; and what mechanism is in place to ensure that colleges receive funding for such students. [128809]

Phil Hope: My hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning, who is responsible for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), has held initial discussions on eligibility criteria and a raft of other evidence with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). This is ongoing dialogue and is dependent upon the final report of the Race Equality Impact Assessment. Following its publication, the funding mechanisms for colleges and providers will be clarified by the LSC through further guidance.

Schools

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many maintained schools there are in each local authority area in England. [128475]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Schools: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the overall balance of the schools budget is in each local education authority in England. [128476]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* In my written ministerial statement of 15 March I announced the publication by the Department of a summary of the data on school balances for the financial years for which information is available—1999-2000 to 2005-06. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. The information is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=58

Training: Parents

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had on provision of support for training to improve parenting skills. [127796]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* From 2006-08, the Government are funding a number of projects to increase the availability of training for practitioners to work with parents. These projects range from universal services provided through mainstream settings such as extended schools and Sure Start Children's Centres through to early intervention, prevention and targeted commitments in the Respect and Social Exclusion Action Plans. Additionally, we will establish the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners which will enable increased training and dissemination of best practice for the parenting work force. This will result in improved delivery of evidence based parenting programmes. The NAPP will become fully operational in October 2007.

Workers Educational Association

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many courses were run by the Workers Educational Association in its southern region in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [127623]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* The Workers Educational Association (WEA) is a specialised designated institution and has a single national contract to deliver further education, through the London Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The Department is not able to provide information on all the courses run by the WEA. However, the following table provides information on LSC funded learners on WEA courses for 2005/06 (the latest year for which we have complete data). Information for 1997 is estimated from the Further Education Funding Council who were responsible for further education funding prior to the LSC.

Southern region (LSC south-west and LSC south-east)

	Number of funded learners
1997	2,609
2005-06	18,570

Youth Opportunity Card

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in the development of the Youth Opportunity Card. [128278]

Beverley Hughes: After careful consideration we no longer intend to run the Youth Opportunity Card pilots. We have carried out, with excellent support from the 10 pilot local authorities, detailed and extensive work to assess whether the Youth Opportunity Card is deliverable and the associated costs, benefits and risks. Our conclusions are that the costs outweigh considerably the money being provided to young people, considerable risks and uncertainties remain and there is no off-the-shelf technological solution or one that can be developed with certainty at the present time.

Therefore we do not believe that going ahead with the card at this point in time would provide value for money. However, I am absolutely committed to opening up new ways of giving young people the means to make their own choices and a real say over what is provided for them. I want to continue to work with the local authorities to develop alternative means of achieving the same ends.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages Board

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he had with *(a)* the chairman and members of the Agricultural Wages Board and *(b)* other bodies and persons on his Department's proposal for a regulatory reform order in respect of the board before making the decision to abandon the proposal. [125960]

Barry Gardiner: My noble Friend the Lord Whitty, when he was Minister of State, met the chairman and other independent members of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales on a number of occasions to discuss the future operation of the board. He also met the National Farmers Union and the Transport and General Workers Union. The possible introduction of a regulatory reform order to modernise the legislative framework was discussed at these meetings.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons were for the abandonment of his Department's proposal for a regulatory reform order in respect of the Agricultural Wages Board. [125961]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA prioritises activities in the light of competing demands for available resources. The introduction of a regulatory reform order in respect of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales was not considered to be a high priority in relation to current DEFRA objectives.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely change to his Department's budget which would result from abolishing the Agricultural Wages Board and subsuming its functions within the national minimum wage scheme. [125962]

Barry Gardiner: It would not be possible to subsume the board's functions within the national minimum wage. In particular the board sets statutory minimum rates for overtime which are not provided for under the national minimum wage arrangements. Loss of statutory

protection for overtime would significantly reduce the protection given to agricultural workers and would be contrary to the Government's commitment to maintain the agricultural minimum wage arrangements.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department was of developing a proposal for a regulatory reform order in respect of the Agricultural Wages Board. [125963]

Barry Gardiner: The possible development of a regulatory reform order (RRO) was considered by staff in the DEFRA agricultural wages and labour team. This work was integral to the Department's overall policy considerations in this area and no specific record of time spent on RRO activities was kept.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of the Agricultural Wages Board in each of the last five years. [125964]

Barry Gardiner: The cost of the Agricultural Wages Board in each of the last five financial years was as follows:

	£
2001-02	262,333
2002-03	225,133
2003-04	308,595
2004-05	621,763
2005-06	385,204

Agriculture: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Single Farm Payment Scheme claims *(a)* have been adjusted and *(b)* are under review in Cumbria. [126862]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 59WS. Detailed analysis of payments made under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme is not yet available.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Single Payment Scheme claims *(a)* have been adjusted and *(b)* are under review. [126121]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 59WS.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which agricultural sectors in each EU member state Common Agricultural Policy support remains coupled to production. [127594]

Barry Gardiner: This information can be found in the "Overview of the implementation of direct payments under the CAP in Member States" copies of which are available in the House Libraries or on the Europa website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/sfp/ms_en.pdf

Animal Welfare

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 on the distribution of animals as prizes in fairs and fetes. [128487]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 contains a provision relating to the giving of pets as prizes. The ban has been limited to unaccompanied children under the age of 16. This is in line with another provision which raises the age at which children can buy a pet from 12 to 16.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 is accompanied by a set of Explanatory Notes and an additional Guidance Note to help enforcers of the Act. DEFRA has also produced the leaflet, 'Your Duty to Care', for owners and keepers and animals, which sets out the Act's provisions.

We also plan to make the Guild of Showmen aware of relevant information on the new law, which we have made available on the DEFRA website.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been tested for bovine tuberculosis using the gamma interferon test in each English region since October 2006; and how many cattle tested positive to the test in each region. [127574]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested, for the period between 23 October 2006 (the launch date of the new policy on the use of the gamma interferon (g-IFN) blood test) and 31 January 2007, is set out in the following table.

Animal health divisional office region (England)	*Number of animals tested with g-IFN*	*Number of these animals testing positive for bovine tuberculosis*
Carlisle	560	11
Exeter	442	66
Gloucester	13	7
Leicester	1,617	111
Lincoln	373	37
Preston	391	1
Reading	370	16
Reigate	394	8
Stafford	1,496	77
Taunton	864	51
Truro	33	13
Worcester	509	40
Total	7,062	438

Regions are omitted where no sampling has taken place.

Monthly data on the numbers of cattle g-IFN tested will be available on the DEFRA website shortly.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he plans to take of evidence obtained from badger culling operations at Steeple Leaze, Dorset and Thornbury, Gloucestershire in the future development of a bovine TB strategy. [127582]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are taking into account all the available evidence in considering a way forward on badger culling, including the badger culling operations at Steeple Leaze, Dorset and Thornbury, Gloucestershire. However, there were no scientific controls set up at the time of these operations. The Krebs review pointed out that the scientific merit of the results was limited because controls allow us to reduce the impact of possible confounding factors on the results observed. In the absence of scientific controls, it is not possible to distinguish the contribution of such factors from the effects of badger removal.

However, the review also suggested that both a before and after comparison, and a comparison with incidence in geographically close areas where no contemporary systematic removal of badgers occurred, provide useful information about the effect of culling.

A complete assessment of previous tuberculosis (TB) control strategies can be found in the 1997 'Report on Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle and Badgers' by Professor John Krebs and the Independent Scientific Review Group, which is available in the House Library.

Cattle: Transport

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many live calves were transported across Great Britain in 2006 and January 2007 in the course of being exported from the Republic of Ireland to the continent; how many of those calves were unloaded at a staging point or control post in Great Britain and given food, liquid and at least 24 hours rest; and if he will make a statement; [128170]

(2) what steps he takes to ensure that live calves that are transported from the Republic of Ireland via Larne and Great Britain to the continent are unloaded at a control post in Great Britain and given food, liquid and at least 24 hours rest; and if he will make a statement. [128171]

Mr. Bradshaw: The export health papers and journey logs are issued by the Republic of Ireland authorities so this information is not readily available. It may be possible to provide some information on the number of cattle which have transited the United Kingdom from Ireland via the TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) database. This is not currently functional, but I will write to my hon. Friend when information becomes available.

It is the responsibility of the Republic of Ireland authorities to check that transporters factor in any required rest stops into their planned journeys when approving journey logs for journeys starting in Ireland. Staff at Dover have a target of checking at least 30 per cent. of cattle leaving the country for slaughter or fattening. Any Irish cattle inspected and found not to have complied with the journey and rest time requirements will be returned to a control post to take a minimum 24 hour rest before continuing their journey.

Claims Annual Report

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Claims Annual Report 2005-06; and when the next report is due to be published. [121398]

Barry Gardiner: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not, as a matter of course, prepare a Claims Annual Report. There is no plan to publish such a report.

Departments: Air Pollution

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate has been made of the carbon footprint of his Department. [124523]

Ian Pearson: Carbon emissions from the DEFRA estate and its business travel over the last five years is given in the following table where data are available.

Total carbon emissions

Tonnes

	Buildings	*Business travel*	*Total*
2001-02	12,063	[1]—	12,063
2002-03	12,033	[2]6,072	18,105
2003-04	11,888	[2]5,403	17,291
2004-05	11,732	[2]5,750	17,482
2005-06	12,548	[3]7,445	19,993

[1] Not known
[2] Carbon emissions from road vehicles
[3] Carbon emissions from road vehicles and air travel Buildings

Buildings

There has been a temporary increase in the size of the DEFRA estate while refurbishment works have been undertaken. DEFRA is seeking to reduce the size of its estate, and is working with the Carbon Trust to implement a Carbon Management Programme which will maximise energy efficiency and carbon saving.

The Department is working with the Carbon Trust to develop a carbon footprint label for each building on the DEFRA estate.

Business Travel

Reporting mechanisms to capture carbon emissions from all forms of business travel (road, air and rail) will be available for financial year 2006-07.

The Department offsets air travel (from April 2005), rail travel (from June 2006) and will offset vehicle travel from June (2007).

Carbon Footprint Reporting

It is the Department's intention to publish its carbon footprint later this year.

Departments: Meat

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he takes of animal welfare standards in the countries from which food procured by his Department is produced. [127596]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA ensures its catering services providers supply meat that satisfies EC meat hygiene and animal welfare regulations. DEFRA ensures its catering services providers specify farm assurance standards in accordance with the model clause in DEFRA's catering services toolkit.

Farmers: Income

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of changes in the average income of farmers in each sector of the farming industry in each of the last five years. [128097]

Barry Gardiner: The average net farm income for all types of farms in the United Kingdom is expected to be around £20,600 in 2006-07, about 20 per cent. higher than 2005-06 in real terms. Incomes are forecast to have doubled for cereals and general cropping farms due to better prices for crops, while lowland livestock farms and mixed farms also benefited from improved prices. Specialist poultry, specialist pigs and dairy farm incomes are expected to fall, as are incomes for less favoured area (LFA) grazing livestock farms. Figures for the net farm income by type of farm in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables.

Average net farm income per farm (£/farm) at current prices

Farm type	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Annual percentage change 2006-07/2005-06*
Cereals	11,000	33,500	13,600	12,700	27,900	119.7
General cropping	11,700	50,800	26,400	22,500	49,300	119.1
Dairy	14,200	21,100	23,700	24,500	19,700	-19.6
Grazing livestock (lowland)	6,700	7,100	5,300	4,100	7,700	87.8
Grazing livestock (LFA)	13,000	14,300	13,000	9,300	9,300	0.0
Specialist pigs	23,500	32,100	25,100	29,000	24,500	-15.5
Specialist poultry	83,500	49,900	89,700	97,500	77,200	-20.8
Mixed	10,400	22,600	14,800	15,600	20,800	33.3
All types (including horticulture)	13,700	23,900	17,900	17,100	21,300	24.6

[1] Net farm income accounting years end on average in February

Source:
Farm Business Survey

Average net farm income per farm (£/farm) in real terms at 2005-06 prices

Farm type	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Annual percentage change 2006-07/2005-06*
Cereals	12,000	35,500	14,000	12,700	27,000	112.6
General cropping	12,700	53,800	27,100	22,500	47,700	112.0
Dairy	15,500	22,300	24,300	24,500	19,100	-22.0
Grazing livestock (lowland)	7,300	7,500	5,400	4,100	7,500	82.9
Grazing livestock (LFA)	14,200	15,100	13,400	9,300	9,000	-3.2
Specialist pigs	25,600	34,000	25,800	29,000	23,700	-18.3
Specialist poultry	90,900	52,900	92,100	97,500	74,700	-23.4
Mixed	11,300	23,900	15,200	15,600	20,100	28.8
All types (including horticulture)	14,900	25,300	18,400	17,100	20,600	20.5

Source:
Farm Business Survey

Fly Tipping

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the total cost of fly-tipping to landowners in each region; and if he will make a statement. [128177]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* DEFRA does not hold data on the clear-up costs of fly-tipping to private landowners by region, and no estimate has been made.

Currently, Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, set up by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, collects data on the incidents dealt with and investigated by local authorities and the Environment Agency.

The cost of clearing illegally dumped waste reported by local authorities between April 2004 and March 2005 was over £44 million. For the period between April 2005 and March 2006, the cost was almost £50 million.

However, it is estimated that the costs of clearing fly-tipping on private land could increase the 2005-2006 clearance costs to over £100 million.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring

forward proposals to compensate landowners for costs they incur in disposing of fly-tipped material; and if he will make a statement. [128178]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The Government have been working closely with the Environment Agency (EA) and local authorities (LAs) to bring forward a number of policies and measures that are aimed at preventing fly-tipping in the first place, and to ensure more effective enforcement. For example, the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 contains several measures that are designed to enhance the powers and capability of LAs and the EA to tackle fly-tipping.

One of these measures involved giving courts the power to make an order against anyone convicted of the main offence of illegal waste disposal to pay for costs incurred by a landowner in removing waste that has been illegally deposited.

In many cases, LAs will often work with landowners to deal with repeated incidents of fly-tipping and to tackle specific problems or issues. I am also aware of the good work being done by the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group, which has been working closely with organisations like the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, Network Rail and the National Trust. The Group has recently produced guidance to landowners on how to deal with fly-tipping and gives tips and ideas for ways in which joint working can help tackle hot-spot areas.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the cost of fly-tipping to landowners; and if he will make a statement. [128179]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Some representations have been received by the Department on this issue.

At a national level, the Environment Agency (EA) and DEFRA meet quarterly with major interested organisations including the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, Network Rail and the National Trust through the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group. The Group's objective is to generally explore ways of improving the system of controls on fly-tipping and to identify better ways of preventing and tackling the problem.

The Group has issued guidance to landowners on how to deal with fly-tipping and also discusses ways in which joint working can help tackle the hot-spot areas where repeated fly-tipping is taking place. This can often be tackled by co-ordinated action from the landowner and the local authority or EA.

Horses: Transport

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the live export of horses for slaughter; and what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on this issue. [127594]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government share the British public's concern over any trade in the export of horses for slaughter. The export of horses is legal under free trade rules and could not be unilaterally banned. However, there is no evidence of such a trade from this country; no horses have been exported for slaughter for many years and there is no evidence of any demand for a trade in live horse exports for slaughter from this country.

This issue has not arisen in any recent discussions with my EU counterparts. However, EC Regulation 1/2005 on the welfare of animals during transport came into effect on 5 January 2007. This includes new rules which should restrict such a trade by requiring, among other things, that unbroken horses may only travel for up to eight hours.

Landfill

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the household waste material collected as part of doorstep recycling collections by local authorities that is subsequently disposed of by the local authority or commercial contractors in landfill counts as landfill for the purposes of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. [128661]

Mr. Bradshaw: Household waste material collected by local authorities as part of doorstep recycling, but subsequently disposed of by a waste disposal authority (WDA) or a commercial contractor to landfill, counts towards a WDA's allowances under the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS).

Plastics: Recycling

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of plastic waste from *(a)* industrial, *(b)* residential and *(c)* agricultural sources was recycled for (i) new plastics and (ii) fuel in the last period for which figures are available. [127543]

Mr. Bradshaw: Recycled plastic waste, usually derived from a number of sector sources, can displace virgin material in the production of a variety of different products. My Department does not therefore hold precise figures for the percentage of plastic from individual sectors recycled and used in the production of new plastics or for fuel.

Latest estimates from WasteDataFlow show that 38,000 tonnes of plastic waste from household sources were sent for recycling in 2005-06. Compositional analyses of household waste suggest that around 4 per cent. is dense plastic (e.g. bottles, packaging), equating to around 1 million tonnes in 2005-06. This suggests that around 4 per cent. of plastic in the household waste stream was sent for recycling.

A report published by the Environment Agency, 'Recycling Agricultural Waste Plastic', estimated that around 87 thousand tonnes of plastic waste arises from the agricultural sector in England, with approximately 1 per cent. of this being recycled.

Detailed information for industrial plastic waste is not available.

Regeneration

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of his Department's spending was devoted to *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural regeneration and redevelopment in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [125892]

Barry Gardiner: The Government are committed to building a strong economy and fair society where there is opportunity and security for all. This commitment applies equally in rural and urban areas. The majority of the Department's programmes benefit both rural and urban areas. However, the cost of these programmes attributable to regeneration and redevelopment could not be identified without disproportionate cost.

Sustainable rural communities are one of DEFRA's five strategic priorities which underpin its overarching aim of promoting sustainable development. This will be achieved in part by encouraging sustainable regeneration in disadvantaged rural areas. Details of delivery against all of DEFRA's strategic priorities can be found in the departmental report.

Single Farm Payments

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many *(a)* extra payments and *(b)* refunds have been made as a result of adjustments to 2005 Single Payment Scheme claims; and what the total value of each category was; [125689]

(2) what proportion of 2005 single payment scheme claims have been adjusted; and what proportion are under review. [125704]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 59WS. The priority has been to correct claims where it has been determined an extra payment is required. So far approximately 3,100 extra payments with a value of over £2,865,000 have been processed and approximately 700 overpayments with a value of £1,185,000 have been identified for recovery.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what change there has been in the number of *(a)* cattle, *(b)* pigs and *(c)* sheep reared on farms in England since the introduction of the single farm payment. [127862]

Barry Gardiner: The number of cattle, pigs and sheep in England at June each year is shown in the following table. This information can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/junengg.pdf

Number of animals

Thousand

	2004[1]	2005	2006
(a) Total cattle	5,679	5,527	5,378
(b) Total pigs	4,234	3,959	4,057
(c) Total sheep	15,873	15,877	15,673

[1] Pre single payment scheme

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Tyres: Recycling

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken into the feasibility of tyre pyrolysis for diesel production as a way of recycling tyres; and what assessment he has made of the extent to which this technology is being used in the UK. [127542]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not undertaken any research into the feasibility of tyre pyrolysis for diesel production as a way of recycling tyres or carried out any assessment on the extent to which this type of technology is used in this country. However, the Environment Agency has carried out some research to gather data on the general pyrolysis process, but this has not looked specifically at the feasibility of tyre pyrolysis for diesel production.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average charge each local authority made for bulk waste doorstep collection in the last year for which figures are available. [127680]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data requested are not held centrally.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), waste collection authorities (WCA) are able to charge households for the collection of some wastes prescribed by the Secretary of State as listed in the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992. This includes any article which exceeds 25 kilograms in weight or any article that does not fit, or cannot be fitted, into the receptacle provided. However, section 45 (3) of the EPA restricts the amount that can be charged by the WCA for the service.

In practice, many local authorities provide a free household collection service for bulky waste, or make provision for those on low incomes.

Waste Management

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government plan to publish their waste strategy. [128451]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are planning to publish their waste strategy for England in May.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many requests from hon. Members to bring constituents to visit 10 Downing street were acceded to in each of the last 10 years, broken down by political party of the hon. Member. [128712]

Hilary Armstrong: The information requested is not held centrally. However, hon. Members from all parties are invited on a rolling programme to nominate and accompany a small group of children from their constituencies to have tea at No. 10 Downing street. Hon. Members are invited to select, in a fair and open way, children who have a particular interest in visiting No. 10 Downing street. Since 1998 approximately 450 MPs have accepted invitations for children to come for tea.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what her Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128076]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 39-40W and to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office to the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1822-23W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Angola

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings she had with her Angolan counterpart in 2006. [128[illegible]]

Mr. McCartney: There were no formal meetings with the Angolan Foreign Minister, Dr. João Bernardo Miranda, in 2006. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, held discussions with Foreign Minister Miranda on 26 January this year in the margins of the African Union Summit and subsequently met the Angolan Vice Minister of the Interior, General Martins, who was in the UK on a visit sponsored by the Government.

Austria: Lichtenstein

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Austrian counterpart on the recent transfer of territory from Austria to Lichtenstein; and whether approval for such a transfer is required at an EU level. [128570]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the Austrian Foreign Minister on the territorial integrity of Austria and Liechtenstein. There has been no transfer of territory between the two countries. Modern land measuring technology has recently proved that Liechtenstein's borders are slightly longer than previously thought.

Bangladesh

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Bangladesh regarding the security of *(a)* Sheik Hasina and *(b)* the British High Commissioner there; and if she will make a statement. [128796]

Dr. Howells: We have made no representations to the caretaker Government of Bangladesh with regard to the security of the leaders of any of the political parties. We have, however, raised our concerns over the security of our High Commissioner in Dhaka based on our duty of care towards all UK diplomats serving worldwide.

Belarus

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking in the UN Security Council with regard to sanctions on Belarus. [128572]

Mr. Hoon: Previous attempts to discuss Belarus at the UN Security Council have not met with success, due to objections by Russia. We have no current plans to raise this subject in the UN Security Council.

Current EU restrictions imposed after the recent fraudulent elections are designed in such a way that they can be targeted towards the regime, not the people of Belarus. A decision to renew these EU measures for a further 12 months was cleared by parliamentary scrutiny in March this year.

Brazil: Ethanol

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has had discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Trade and Industry on the purchase of ethanol from Brazil; and if she will make a statement. [128653]

Mr. Hoon: Discussions have not taken place between Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Ministers about the purchase of ethanol from Brazil.

There are, however, regular discussions between senior officials of the FCO, DTI and other Government Departments on climate and energy security issues. Ethanol could be key to UK objectives in both areas, and has featured regularly in these discussions. The Government also maintain a regular dialogue with the Brazilians, the European Commission, the International Energy Agency and others on ethanol production and trade.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Brazilian ethanol with the Brazilian Foreign and Trade and Development Ministers during her visit to Brazil in July 2006. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry visited an ethanol plant with the Brazilian Trade and Development Minister during his visit to Brazil in September 2006.

Burma: Foreign Investment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make it her policy to ban investment in Burma from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* British Dependent Territories; and if she will make a statement. [128777]

Mr. McCartney: We favour multilateral sanctions, such as those included in the EU Common Position on Burma, because they have a greater practical impact and send a stronger political signal. Any changes would need the support of all EU member states as the Common Position can only be amended by consensus.

The Common Position includes a ban on investment in or the provision of financial services to certain Burmese state-owned enterprises. The ban is in force in the UK and British Overseas Territories. Companies incorporated or constituted in the British Overseas Territories need to comply with the law, or risk prosecution.

We give no support to companies wishing to invest in Burma. British companies who enquire about trade and investment in Burma are informed of the political situation and the regime's record on human rights. A copy of the EU Common Position on Burma is available in the Library of the House.

Burma: Sequestration of Assets

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will freeze the UK assets of *(a)* the government and *(b)* state-owned enterprises of Burma; and if she will make a statement. [128831]

Mr. McCartney: The assets of senior members of the Burmese Government and those who benefit from their policies, as listed in Annexe I to the EU Common Position on Burma, are already frozen. The Common Position also bans investment in the named state-owned enterprises listed in Annexe II.

We believe that the present EU Common Position on Burma is the best achievable policy, given the range of views amongst our partners. Any additional measures would need the support of all other EU member states as the Common Position can only be amended by consensus. We do not believe that there would be consensus to strengthen the Common Position. A copy of the EU Common Position on Burma is available in the Library of the House.

Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to ratify the United Nations convention on the non-navigational uses of international watercourses. [128163]

Mr. McCartney: The UK did not sign the convention while it was open for signature, and the Government have no immediate plans to accede to it.

Corruption

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her counterparts in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on tackling corruption. [126893]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no such discussions this year. However officials, including from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, participate with officials from other countries in regular meetings of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Working Group on Bribery. This met on 16-18 January and again on 12-14 March.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the UK's compliance with obligations to tackle corruption under Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development agreements. [126903]

Mr. McCartney: The UK's progress report on our implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Bribery Convention, following up on the recommendations contained in the OECD's "phase two review" of March 2005, was one of the items discussed at the Working Group on Bribery plenary meeting of 12-14 March. During a debate in the House on 7 February my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs undertook to publish this report after the meeting, *Official Report*, column 908. This has been done and copies of the report are available in the Library of the House.

Croatia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government has made to Croatia on the process of returning confiscated homes to Serbian people. [128655]

Mr. Hoon: Croatia must continue to address the issue of returning Serb refugees. Much progress has been made in repossessing properties occupied during the 1991-95 conflict, building new houses for returning Serbs and reconstructing housing destroyed during the fighting. The Government have also started providing social housing for those Croatian Serbs who lost their tenancy rights during the conflict. But the process needs to be accelerated, and this issue remains an important feature of the EU's political dialogue with Croatia. In addition our ambassador in Zagreb maintains a regular dialogue with the Croatian Government on this and other issues.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects Croatia to be able to join the EU. [128650]

Mr. Hoon: The EU has not set a target date for Croatian accession. Croatia is making good progress in its accession negotiations. It has provisionally closed two chapters and opened a further three out of a total of 35. We strongly support EU enlargement and Croatia's EU accession as soon as it has made the necessary preparations and met fully the conditions of membership.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if she will make a statement. [127863]

Mr. McCartney: The security situation in parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains fragile, particularly in the Kivus, Ituri and northern Katanga. Bas-Congo and Kinshasa are calm, but tensions there between Government forces and other groups remain.

Ill-disciplined and poorly-paid Congolese armed forces present the greatest threat to civilians in some areas. Congolese and foreign militias also abuse local populations in eastern DRC. We continue to push for improved security sector reform and military training, to ensure that the Congolese army protects the population. We continue to encourage the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC to take robust action against armed groups that threaten civilians.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [128348]

Mr. McCartney: A new Congolese government was named on 5 February, and announced its programme on 22 February, along with a "Governance Contract", to be adopted by parliament as a framework for the government's future work programme. This should help to improve the government's transparency and accountability. New Ministers have now taken up office and the National Assembly will shortly begin legislative business.

There remain many challenges for the government, notably reforming the security sector, reducing corruption, delivering services to the people and improving regional relations.

We have raised several times with the government, including at presidential level, the need for opposition groups to be granted sufficient political and legal space in which to operate, and for freedom of expression to be improved and respected.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which postal companies handle mail dispatched by her Department and its agencies. [128242]

Dr. Howells: The British Forces Post Office handle and screen incoming mail on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). They also process outgoing and incoming diplomatic bags.

The Royal Mail and DHL Express are used for the dispatch of FCO mail within the UK. DHL Globe Forwarding is used for the dispatch of the diplomatic bags to our overseas missions. Overseas missions use a local (usually international) company to despatch diplomatic bags to London.

Departments: Publicity

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128068]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep a central record of amounts spent on advertising and promotional campaigns. This information, and the costs of each campaign broken down by costs relating to television, radio and print media, could be obtained only by requiring individual budget holders to examine all invoices for the last 10 years. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Djibouti

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department had with the government of Djibouti in 2006; and what (i) discussions and (ii) visits at official level were undertaken. [128568]

Mr. McCartney: There were no discussions between UK and Djibouti Ministers in 2006. However, our Ambassador to Djibouti, based at the British Embassy in Addis Ababa, and officials had regular discussions with Djibouti government officials in 2006. The Ambassador visited Djibouti every three months and maintained friendly and cordial relations with the Djibouti Foreign Minister, Mr. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf.

On 26 April 2006, Mr. Rachad Farah, the Djibouti Ambassador based in Paris had talks with senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials in London and on 21 June 2006, the Djibouti Foreign Minister visited the UK and discussed bilateral and regional issues with senior FCO officials.

Egypt: Sudan

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Egyptian counterpart on Egyptian-Sudanese disputed border territory in south-eastern Egypt. [128562]

Dr. Howells: While my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had discussions on Sudan with her Egyptian counterpart, she has not discussed this specific issue with him. The UK continues to follow developments at official level, although neither the Egyptian nor the Sudanese government has raised the matter with our embassies. The UK maintains a full and productive dialogue with Egypt on a range of Sudan-related issues.

Embassies: Expenditure

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost was of maintaining UK embassies in the last year for which figures are available. [128341]

Mr. Hoon: The total cost of building maintenance for our missions overseas in financial year 2005-06 was £44.9 million.

Human Trafficking: EU Countries

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on human trafficking through new EU entrance countries. [128318]

Dr. Howells: Human trafficking through the EU is an issue which has been raised regularly at EU Councils and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed it with a number of EU partners bilaterally. Human trafficking has not been on the agenda of formal Council meetings since the accession of Bulgaria and Romania. However, the principal work at EU level to tackle human trafficking is being taken forward at official level on the basis of the EU action plan on human trafficking which was adopted during the UK Presidency of the EU. The EU action plan provides a comprehensive approach to tackling this problem and the impact it has on its victims. A report on progress is due to be received before the end of 2007. The UK's action plan on tackling trafficking in human beings, which will be published soon, reflects the work being done by the UK. The UK announced on 22 January its intention to sign the Council of Europe Convention on trafficking in human beings; both Bulgaria and Romania, the newest EU member states, have signed the Convention and Romania has additionally ratified it.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on US Democrat policy of troop withdrawal from Iraq. [127648]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary receives regular reports on US politics, both the administration's and opposition's policies, from our embassy in Washington, including on the recent action by Democrats to table legislation calling for US troop withdrawal in Iraq.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the membership is of the working group for security and border security agreed at the expanded regional neighbours' meeting in Baghdad on 10 March; what the objectives are of the group; and what she plans the role of the UK to be; [128601]

(2) what the membership is of the working groups on *(a)* energy and electricity and *(b)* refugees agreed at the 10 March expanded regional neighbours' meeting in Baghdad; what the objectives are of each group; and what she expects the role of the UK to be on each. [128604]

Dr. Howells: The Government of Iraq has not finalised the membership or structure of the working groups, but we expect those neighbours with a relevant interest to participate. The UK is ready to assist if invited by the Government of Iraq.

For each group the common objectives are to improve co-operation and co-ordination between Iraq and its neighbours.

Kosovo: Refugees

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the authorities in Kosovo on the return of Serbian Kosovans to their homes. [128649]

Mr. Hoon: The United Kingdom continues to work closely with the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to encourage the Kosovo authorities to implement the UN standards for Kosovo, including on sustainable returns and the rights of communities. The recent UNMIK standards assessment of 9 March 2007 (further information can be found at:

http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/252/54/PDF/N0725254.pdf?OpenElernent)

demonstrates the progress made in all areas of the standards process.

The United Kingdom has committed £1.5 million over two years, along with funding from the UN Development programme and UN High Commission for Refugees, to a project to support the rapid return of minority communities to their homes. The Kosovo Government is the single largest donor to the returns process, having contributed £22 million since 2003. Projects implemented by Kosovo's municipalities helped 141 Serb families to return to Kosovo during 2006.

The United Kingdom does not take this progress for granted, and we would like to see more intensive progress. Work on standards will not end with a status settlement; it will continue as an important obligation to be taken forward by the Kosovo Government. We continue to press the Serbian Government to support the return of Kosovo Serbs and will work with partners on the ground in Kosovo to support the conditions for their return.

Mauritania: Elections

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whom her Department has appointed as election observers for parliamentary observers in Mauritania. [128553]

Dr. Howells: The first round of the Mauritanian presidential elections took place on 11 March. Officials from our embassy in Rabat were in Mauritania to observe the elections.

The European Union sent a large Election Observation Mission to Mauritania. The Mission issued a press release on 14 March praising the transparent and calm manner in which the elections were conducted and expressing satisfaction that the overall results corresponded to the wishes of voters. The second round of the presidential elections will take place on 25 March.

Morocco

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had in the UN Security Council on the attempt by Morocco to reclaim the territory of Ceuta in northern Morocco; and if she will make a statement. [128652]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has held no discussions in the UN Security Council about Ceuta.

Namibia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Namibian counterpart on the future of the Caprivi Strip in north east Namibia; and whether she has received representations from Caprivi separatists on this matter. [128566]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the future of the Caprivi Strip with the Namibian government. Our High Commission in Windhoek continues to monitor developments linked to the Caprivi Strip, including the ongoing court case of 12 individuals accused of separatist activities.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what personal involvement she has taken in negotiations with the North Korean regime on its nuclear weapons programme. [128563]

Mr. McCartney: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) nuclear weapons programme is a key focus for the Six Party Talks (6PT). While we remain profoundly concerned by the nuclear test conducted on 9 October 2006, the agreement reached at the latest round of talks on 13 February is a step in the right direction towards the peaceful denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, proving that diplomatic negotiations are the way forward. Although not a member of the 6PT, the UK is fully supportive of this process and will continue to urge the DPRK to fulfil the commitments it has entered into under the February agreement, as well as comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and resume its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Tanzania: BAE Systems

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has received from the Tanzanian government on the repayment of money paid for BAE Radar Systems. [128567]

Mr. McCartney: We have not received any representations from the Tanzanian government about the repayment of money paid for the BAE Radar System.

Tibet: Human Rights

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her Chinese counterpart on human rights in Tibet. [128571]

Mr. McCartney: We regularly raise our concerns on the human rights situation in Tibet with the Chinese Government. We did this most recently at the 15th round of the UK-China human rights dialogue, which took place in London on 5 February.

Turkey: EU Enlargement

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on Turkish membership of the EU. [128344]

Mr. Hoon: Following the General Affairs and External Relations Council in December 2006, momentum in Turkey's accession process has been re-established. Steady progress is being made under the German presidency on individual chapters of the acquis. We will support the efforts of the presidency to ensure that this continues.

Western Sahara

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there are plans for the territory of Western Sahara to be recognised by the UK as a sovereign independent country; and if she will make a statement. [128551]

Dr. Howells: The UK regards the status of Western Sahara as undetermined, pending UN efforts to find a solution. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General, and his Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, Peter Van Walsum, to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

On 31 October 2006, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1720, which renewed the mandate for the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 30 April 2007. The Government supported this and will continue to encourage all parties to engage with the UN process.

Zimbabwe

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the current economic situation in Zimbabwe. [127902]

Mr. McCartney: The economic situation in Zimbabwe is dire. The official rate of inflation is now in excess of 1,700 per cent. although most reliable estimates place it in excess of 3,000 per cent., there is 80 per cent. unemployment and the country, which was once the breadbasket of southern Africa, is now dependant on food relief to feed its own people. The responsibility for this rests fully with Mugabe and until there is a much-needed change of policy, the economic disintegration of Zimbabwe is set to continue.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department will take to ensure that the next presidential election in Zimbabwe in 2008 will be free and fair. [127898]

Mr. McCartney: We will continue to give practical support to civil society organisations committed to increasing democratic space in Zimbabwe. But it is for the Government of Zimbabwe ultimately to ensure that Zimbabwe's next presidential elections are free and fair, and that the ordinary people of Zimbabwe are allowed to exercise their democratic right to elect a leader of their choice.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received on the arrest and treatment of Morgan Tsvangirai by the Government of Zimbabwe; and if she will make a statement. [127899]

Mr. McCartney: Our embassy in Harare has kept us informed of what has been happening to Morgan Tsvangirai and those others who were detained and badly beaten on 11 March. All have now been released and are receiving medical treatment.

As has already been made clear in statements by both my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, we utterly condemn the violent and unwarranted action taken by the Government of Zimbabwe against peaceful campaigners exercising their democratic right to voice their opinions.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [127900]

Mr. McCartney: We are in regular contact with our EU partners on the political situation in Zimbabwe. They share our concerns and, like us, are pressing for policy change in Zimbabwe and an end to the country's deepening economic and humanitarian crisis. Only last month, EU partners agreed to maintain and strengthen EU targeted measures against Zimbabwe for a further year.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been made to her Department on the treatment of opposition members in Zimbabwe by the government of that country. [127901]

Mr. McCartney: None. But my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, summoned the Zimbabwean ambassador on 13 March and made our views of the horrific events on the preceding day perfectly clear. In the last few days, we have also spoken to a number of EU, African and other countries about the situation in Zimbabwe and have discussed the need for more pressure to be applied on Mugabe to change his policies.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Amphetamines

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence there is from UK seizures of illicit drugs and their precursors on the use of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine from over-the-counter medicines in the manufacture of methamphetamine in the UK. [127966]

Mr. Coaker: There has been increasing concern from the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Serious Organised Crime Agency that pseudoephedrine and ephedrine can be extracted from over the counter remedies relatively easily and used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

The police have identified in specific cases that multiple packs of particular pharmacy pseudoephedrine containing products had been purchased and used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. They have also identified that, in part, packs were obtained from numerous pharmacies to obtain adequate quantities for manufacturing.

In January, the Commission on Human Medicines recommended that changing the legal status of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine to a prescription only medicine together with restricting the pack size was necessary to protect public health in the UK and that a consultation exercise should be conducted on these proposals. Department of Health Ministers accepted this advice and a full public consultation exercise was commenced by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency on 7 March 2007 and can be accessed via the MHRA's website:

www.mhra.gov.uk.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued by each division of Gloucestershire constabulary in each of the last five years; and how many of them were breached in each year. [125285]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are issued by the courts. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in Gloucestershire, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, and the number proven in court to have been breached, up to 31 December 2005 (latest available) is in the table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued in each year at all courts in the Gloucestershire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area and the number that were proven in court to have been breached in each year, for orders issued between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2005 (latest available)

	ASBOs issued in year[1]	*ASBOs breached in year*[1, 2]
2001	2	1
2002	1	1
2003	7	5
2004	26	13
2005	30	37

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. In this table breaches of ASBOs issued in Gloucestershire are counted irrespective of the area in which the breach occurred.
[2] An ASBO can be issued in one year and breached in another.
Notes:
1. It is possible for an individual to breach their ASBO in more than one year, so persons may be counted more than once in this table.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
(Issued): As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.
(Breached): OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Biometrics

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to check facial images taken for the purposes of biometric passports or identity cards against CCTV footage from unsolved crimes. [126437]

John Reid: There are no plans currently to do so.

Domestic Violence: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of domestic violence were reported in *(a)* County Durham and *(b)* Easington constituency in each of the last five years. [126451]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Although the Home Office collects data on the number of reported domestic violence incidents by police force area, it does not routinely collect these data at constituency level. However, the Government Office for the north east has provided the following data:

	County Durham	*Easington*
2001-02	6,036	1,477
2002-03	6,409	1,413
2003-04	6,538	1,265
2004-05	7,206	1,305
2005-06	6,508	1,378

Electronic Tagging

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were subject to electronic monitoring whilst on bail in each of the last two years; and how many of these people were charged with violent crimes. [125335]

John Reid: The following table sets out the number of separate occasions on which courts imposed an electronically monitored curfew requirement as a condition of bail in each of the last two financial years in England and Wales. The figures have been provided by the two electronic monitoring suppliers G4S and SERCO.

Total number of times courts imposed a curfew with electronic monitoring as a bail condition

Financial year	*Number*
2005-06	8,548
2006-07 (to 31 January 2007)	14,104

Data on defendants subject to electronic monitoring while charged with violent crimes are not collected centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times he has written to members of the judiciary on the subject of electronic monitoring of people whilst on bail in the last 12 months. [125336]

John Reid: I have not written to members of the judiciary on the subject of electronic monitoring of defendants while on bail in the last 12 months.

Identity Cards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer from the Minister for Immigration of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1, on identity cards, if he will publish the research and briefing documents on which his statement that 70 per cent. of the costs of identity cards will be spent on introducing biometric passports is based. [127719]

John Reid: Cost estimates for the national identity scheme are outlined every six months in cost reports laid before Parliament pursuant to section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. The first such report was published in October 2006 and is available at:

http://www.identitycards.gov.uk/news-publications-legislative.asp

Immigration: Criminal Records

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the absence of data on offences committed abroad by foreign nationals on the adequacy of risk assessments of those individuals by the Immigration Service. [124469]

Mr. Byrne: The review announced by right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will consider how

information about criminality is recorded and shared both within the UK and between the UK and other countries as well as how such information is used to protect the public.

Immigration: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* non-EEA residence card (Form EEA 2) and *(b)* permanent residence card (Form EEA 4) applications are being considered by his Department from each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland; and how many of these applications were submitted more than 14 weeks ago. [125546]

Mr. Byrne: This information would be available only by examination of individual records at a disproportionate cost

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* each port and airport in Northern Ireland have been detected as in alleged breach of the Immigration Rules (i) in each of the past four years and (ii) in the current year to date. [125677]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* We are unable to provide the figures for immigration offenders detected in Northern Ireland by the Local Enforcement Office (LEO) for the years requested as they form part of the national picture and therefore cannot be quantified.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter of 5 February 2007 from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [123621]

John Reid: I wrote to the hon. Member on 19 March 2007.

Open Prisons: Drugs

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were found to be in possession of narcotics in each open prison in each of the last two years. [128644]

John Reid: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 302W.

Parking Offences

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parking penalties were issued in the area of each local authority in England with parking responsibility in 2006; and what percentage change this represents from the equivalent figures for 2000. [128675]

Mr. Coaker: Information on penalty charge notices issued by local authorities operating decriminalised parking enforcements were first published in 2002 and can be found in the annual Home Office publication 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables' (latest available covers 2004)— Tables 22(a) and 22(b) refers. The publication is available on the Research Development and Statistics (RDS) website. Copies of the publication are also available in the Library.

2005 data will be available later this year; 2006 data will be available in 2008.

Passports

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1514-5W, on passports, if he will list the organisations using the Passport Validation Service. [127557]

John Reid: The Passport Validation Service (PVS) is used by organisations from both the private and public sector.

Public sector customers include the Criminal Records Bureau, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Department of Work and Pensions, e-Borders, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Revenue and Customs, Immigration and Nationality Directorate and the Police.

Within the private sector, organisations regulated by the Financial Services Authority have to comply with the "Know Your Customer" requirements in order to guard against money laundering. As part of meeting these requirements, many financial institutions already check passports of individuals as part of opening accounts or taking out loans.

PVS offers such institutions the ability to ensure that these checks are more effective and secure by confirming whether the passport presented is a valid passport and has not been reported as lost or stolen. Thus, this provides a deterrent against fraud and forgery. Private sector organisations using PVS do so via a call centre, they provide PVS with the details from the passport in front of them and PVS confirms or denies whether this information matches our records. No personal details are divulged by PVS.

There are currently seven financial services organisations using PVS. Each is regulated by the Financial Service Authority and has been accredited before being allowed to enter into contracts to use PVS. Organisations are accredited to ensure they have a legitimate need to use the service and systems are in place to regulate staff using the service and to ensure adequate data protection.

However, it is not intended that the names of these organisations should be published so as not to reduce the effectiveness of the Passport Validation Service as a deterrent to combat fraud.

Police: Working Hours

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours of overtime were worked by police officers in each of the last 10 years. [127760]

John Reid: The Home Office does not collect figures on the number of overtime hours worked by police officers.

Prisoners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners serving indeterminate public protection sentences have been reclassified and transferred to another prison in the last 12 months. [125418]

John Reid: This information is not held centrally.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK prisoners are being held under prisoner transfer arrangements for offences committed abroad. [127875]

John Reid: Between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2006, 295 British nationals convicted of offences committed abroad were returned to prisons in England and Wales to continue serving their sentences.

The repatriation of prisons to Scotland and to Northern Ireland is a matter for Scottish Ministers and for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland respectively.

Prisoners: Bridgend

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what issues require resolution at Sandville Self-Help Centre prior to the resumption of pre-release prisoner volunteers being placed there. [128484]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All outstanding issues between the CSV, probation and prison service have been resolved. Instructions to resume placements at Sandville and the revised Memorandum of understanding are due to be issued to all relevant establishments shortly.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women prisoners have children who are *(a)* under five years and *(b)* under 18 months. [127759]

John Reid: This information is not kept routinely by the Prison Service. A resettlement survey commissioned in 2003-04 by the service showed that half of all female prisoners had dependent children (including stepchildren) under 18, and 46 per cent. of those women had lived with at least one dependent child before custody.

Prisons: ICT

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 271W, on the C-NOMIS IT project, what the outcome was of the review conducted in January; and what plans he has for further releases and implementation of the C-NOMIS system across the wider prison estate. [127684]

John Reid: As planned, the NOMIS Programme Board reviewed an independently assured plan for developing and testing the versions of C-NOMIS that are to be rolled out across England and Wales, including the timing of the upgrading of the IT infrastructure and how all of these are underpinned by a strengthened contractual arrangements with our suppliers. Lessons learnt from the highly successful introduction of the early version of C-NOMIS at HMP Albany on the Isle Wight were also taken into account.

Going forward, we plan to introduce a second version of the application with an improved level of functionality no later than July 2007. At the discretion of HM Prison Service and private sector prisons management this could be implemented in as many as 25 suitable prisons. Work is already well advanced to confirm identification and scheduling of that group. This will begin with upgrading HMP Albany and going live at other two Isle of Wight prisons, HMPs Parkhurst and Camp Hill.

Beyond that, the main C-NOMIS base release, encompassing full prison and probation functionality, will be available no later than July 2008. In the near future senior prisons managers will be meeting with colleagues from probation and the C-NOMIS Project deployment support teams to decide how they will schedule the remaining prisons for implementation.

Given this re-planning we now anticipate that this major roll-out schedule can now be speeded up significantly overall without cutting down on the time to implement for individual sites. We expect the roll-out of replacement of legacy systems—LIDS in the case of prisons—to be complete by the end of March 2009 which represents only a slight delay on the original plans.

Prisons: Religion

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what vetting procedures are undertaken by his Department before employing a minister of religion in HM prisons. [127563]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers of religion fall under the category of chaplains and the checks undertaken include checks on: identity; proof of address; entitlement to work in the UK; criminal record check; references; qualifications, endorsement from the relevant faith adviser and national security vetting.

Secure Accommodation: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which secure accommodation facilities female adult offenders from each local authority in Wales were held in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [128467]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information about the prisons in which women from each local authority in Wales are held is not available centrally.

Stray Dogs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to ensure that police authorities are fulfilling their obligations to receive stray dogs under the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and what sanctions may be imposed on police authorities who fail to fulfil their obligations. [124582]

Mr. Coaker: Under section 150 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 local authorities and the police have a shared responsibility to receive stray dogs from members of the public. It is a matter for the chief officer of the individual force concerned to determine the operational priority attached to activities within his or her force area.

War Crimes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2153W, on war crimes, if he will list the cases for which all proceedings are complete in recent years to which the answer refers. [128019]

Joan Ryan: The cases referred to in my answer were applications for arrest warrants in respect of Henry Kissinger, Robert Mugabe, Bo Xilai, Narendra Modi, Ariel Sharon, Shaul Mofaz and Doron Almog.

Weir Prison

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for the sale of HMP Weir in May 2006. [128094]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At the time it closed, The Weir was no longer considered appropriate for the accommodation of prisoners. Substantial investment would have been necessary to keep it open.

Women's Prisons: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average daily cost was of keeping a prisoner in each women's prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [128496]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The average daily cost per prisoner for each female establishment in 2005-06, and the average cost for the whole female estate, is shown in the table.

Daily cost per prisoner for each female prison

Establishment name	*Daily cost per prisoner (£)*
Askham Grange	90.08
Brockhill[1]	136.53
Bronzefield	130.89
Bullwood Hall[1]	146.71
Cookham Wood	103.94
Downview	102.33
Drake Hall	79.68
East Sutton Park	67.38
Eastwood Park	103.88
Foston Hall	103.02
Holloway	145.91
Low Newton	111.91
Morton Hall	81.00
New Hall	127.32
Send	88.42
Styal	99.89
Female estate total	110.36

[1] Brockhill and Bullwood Hall re-roled to male category C establishments in 2006-07 and no longer hold female prisoners.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question numbers 114242, 114243 and 114244, tabled by the hon. Member for West Suffolk on 9 January 2007. [120886]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 2 March 2007, *Official Report* column 1562W.

Young Offenders: Suicide

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* attempted suicides, *(b)* threats of suicide and *(c)* incidents of self-harm there were in each young offenders institution in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006 and (v) 2007 to date; and if he will make a statement. [127947]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* In response to *(a)*, there is no definition of what constitutes an attempted suicide, as it is very difficult to measure suicidal intent.

The information requested at *(b)* is not collated centrally in the requested format and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

The exact information requested at *(c)* is not available. Self-harm figures are derived from a national recording system of each incident of self-harm in prison, the majority of which are minor, and can only be considered as an estimate.

Youth Justice Board

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the research programme of the Youth Justice Board relates to the Board's outcome measures. [126856]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Each individual study in the YJB's research strategy is aligned with at least one corporate target. The YJB's Research Programme Board (RPB) oversees the development and progress of the research strategy and has representatives of every directorate in the YJB, as well as policy and research representatives from the Home Office. Research and evaluation directly informs national policy and local practice and is part of the ongoing process of development which is monitored by the YJB's performance team who provide outcome measures for the targets.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Aggregates Levy

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what mechanisms will be introduced to ensure that monies raised through the implementation of the aggregates levy sustainability fund are allocated to projects which will result in environmental benefits in Northern Ireland; [120336]

(2) when the Government plans to implement the aggregates levy sustainability fund in Northern Ireland. [120337]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment is currently preparing a business case with a view to setting up a sustainable development fund in 2007-08.

Community Relations: Belfast

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the progress made in evaluating the Community Safety Unit's pilot project on the recording of hate incidents in South Belfast. [127186]

Mr. Hanson: Project RIOH, the pilot project for recording hate incidents in South Belfast is currently being evaluated. Reporting centres and other stakeholders have been canvassed for their views on the operation of Project RIOH and the information collected is currently being considered. The multi-agency group which oversaw the project is due to meet soon to consider the findings of the evaluation.

Dual Nationality

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* British subjects, *(b)* Irish citizens and *(c)* people with dual British-Irish nationality there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [123511]

Mr. Hain: The Government do not hold the information in the format requested. However, the 2001 census gives information about the place of birth of those living in Northern Ireland on 29 April 2001: Of the 1,685,267 people living in Northern Ireland on census day, 1,534,268 are recorded as having been born in Northern Ireland, 81,389 were recorded as having been born elsewhere in the UK and 39,051 were recorded as having been born in the republic of Ireland.

Place of birth does not, of course, determine citizenship. Entitlement to British citizenship is regulated by the British Nationality Acts and Irish citizenship is a matter for the Irish authorities. However, under the terms of the Belfast Agreement, the British and Irish Governments recognised the right of the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves as Irish or British or both, as they so choose, and confirm their right to hold both British and Irish citizenship. Annex 2 to the Agreement signed by the two Governments defines "the people of Northern Ireland", for this purpose, as meaning "all persons born in Northern Ireland who had, at the time of their birth, at least one parent who is a British citizen or an Irish citizen or is otherwise entitled to reside in Northern Ireland without any restriction on their period of residence".

English Language

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many tutors taught English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [128389]

Maria Eagle: The following figures relate only to those colleges in the statutory further education sector that have maintained details of the number of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tutors employed during the period requested. No details are held on the number of ESOL tutors employed by other, non-statutory organisations.

Academic year	*Number of tutors*
2006/07	116
2005/06	90
2004/05	37
2003/04	22
2002/03	19

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much expenditure from the public purse there was on English for speakers of other languages courses in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [128390]

Maria Eagle: Expenditure, funded by the Department for Employment and Learning, on English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses in further education colleges, in each of the last five years, was:

	£
2006-07	1,469,297
2005-06	865,059
2004-05	691,628
2003-04	486,093
2002-03	349,276

Funding is also available within the new deal programmes. However, it is not possible to separately identify this funding.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much money was given to primary schools in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years to help children for whom English is not their first language; [128391]

(2) how much money was given to secondary schools in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years to help children for whom English is not their first language. [128393]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education has provided earmarked funding for the provision of teaching and teaching support for English as an Additional Language (EAL), through the education and library boards in each financial year as follows:

	£
2002-03	200,000
2003-04	400,000
2004-05	410,000

	£
2005-06	570,000
2006-07	834,000

These figures are not available by allocation to primary and post-primary schools.

In addition, since 2005-06 schools have received additional funding within the delegated budget shares distributed under the common funding formula for all pupils, identified within the schools annual statistical return as requiring additional support for English as an Additional Language.

Allocations for primary and secondary schools were as follows:

		£
	Primary	*Secondary*
2005-06	1,106,000	531,000
2006-07	1,691,000	783,000
2007-08	2,462,000	1,035,000

Higher Education

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many third level education institutions the Minister for Higher and Further Education has visited since her appointment to the Department. [120428]

Maria Eagle: As Minister with responsibility for Employment and Learning I have visited three third level education institutions: the North East Institute of Further and Higher Education; Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education; and the North West Institute of Further and Higher Education.

Prisons: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was allocated to drugs treatment for prisoners in Northern Ireland in each of the past six years; and how many prisoners received drugs treatment in each Northern Ireland prison over the same period. [128029]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the form requested. It is not possible to differentiate between resources allocated and prisoners participating in programmes for drugs or alcohol misuse. The Prison Service has contracts with three community voluntary support groups to provide counselling services to prisoners who have abused substances.

Information about the financial support given to the groups is only available for the past five years as follows:

	£000
2002-03	294
2003-04	379
2004-05	472
2005-06	551
2006-07 to February	386
Total	2,082

The number of prisoners facilitated is as follows:

	Number
2002-03	[1]914
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	443
2005-06	496
2006-07 to February	466
Total	2,319

The NI Prison Service also has a policy of continuing community substitution programmes when a prisoner is committed to prison; this has been in place since September 2004. This aspect cannot be accurately costed as much depends on the drug and dosage used and the length of time that the individual is kept on the programme—some will still be on it when discharged. The number of prisoners involved is as follows:

	Number
2004	14
2005	19
2006	23
2007 to February	5
Total	61

In addition, the Prison Service has a detailed detoxification protocol which sets out recommendations for treatment and support to prisoners who allege that they are addicted to drugs or alcohol but who are not participating in a community substitution programme. It is not possible to put a cost against such treatments or identify the number of prisoners treated.

Racial Harassment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many victims of racist incidents have been helped under the Practical Actions scheme of his Department's Community Safety Unit since the scheme's inception. [127187]

Mr. Hanson: The Practical Actions scheme has been developed by the Community Safety Unit in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the PSNI. The scheme provides personal and home security measures to victims of hate incidents where an individual has suffered a hate incident at or near their home or where an individual's home has been damaged as a result of a hate incident. The scheme has been available to victims since February and to date two victims of racist incidents have received support under the scheme.

Railways: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if Translink will make an estimate of the cost of providing a passing loop in the Ballykelly area for trains between Coleraine and Londonderry. [120287]

David Cairns: Translink estimate the cost of providing a passing loop at Ballykelly to be £500,000.

However, this would also require the introduction of a new signalling system between Castlerock and Londonderry at an estimated cost of between £8.5 million and £10 million.

Roads: Scotland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has made to the Scottish Executive in relation to the upgrading of *(a)* the A75 Stranraer to Dumfries Road and *(b)* the A77 Stranraer to Ayr road. [120433]

David Cairns: There have been no representations.

Schools

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many schools the Minister for Higher and Further Education has visited since her appointment to the Department, broken down by *(a)* management type and *(b)* education and library board; and if he will make a statement. [120429]

Maria Eagle: Since my appointment to the Department of Employment and Learning, as Minister for Further and Higher Education, I have not visited any schools. However, as Minister for Education, I have visited a total of 13 schools:

(a) Broken down by management type—grant maintained integrated, three Roman Catholic maintained, seven controlled and two voluntary grammar.

(b) Broken down by education and library board—four in the SEELB, five in the BELB, one in the WELB and three in the NEELB.

Water Service: Standards

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the amount of water lost through leakage in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [128137]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan, dated 20 March 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about what estimate he has made of the amount of water lost through leakage in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available (128137). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

The estimated level of water lost through leakage in the three years from 2003/04 to 2005/06 is as follows:-

	Leakage (megalitres)
2003-04	83,950
2004-05	74,095
2005-06	64,970

The final outturn for March 2007 is not yet available but Water Service is on schedule to achieve its set target of 61,685 Megalitres.

Water: Shortages

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hosepipe bans were introduced in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; how many breaches of each ban were recorded; and what penalty was enforced in each case. [128138]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan, dated 20 March 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about how many hosepipe bans were introduced in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; how many breaches of each ban were recorded; and what penalty was enforced in each case (128138). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

No hosepipe bans have been introduced in Northern Ireland in the last 10 years. Temporary prohibitions on non-essential hosepipe usage were last introduced in 1995. Anyone contravening the ban would have been liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £200. Water Service has no record of any convictions during that time.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to encourage councils to develop neighbourhood charters. [128220]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have agreed a protocol on the production of non-statutory guidance with the Local Government Association. As such we are working with the Local Government Association, the Improvement and Development Agency and a range of other stakeholders to ensure that there is appropriate advice available to help local authorities develop effective local charters with local communities; and to fit them coherently into the overall sustainable community strategy for the area.

Community Development: Ethnic Groups

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 314-5W, on religious groups, which *(a)* Hindu, *(b)* Sikh and *(c)* Muslim organisations received funding from the communities capacity building fund in each of the last five years; and how much has been allocated to each organisation for 2006-07. [124538]

Mr. Woolas: The faith communities capacity building fund was established in 2005, with the first round of grants to organisations being made in 2006-07. A list of all those organisations which received funding in the first round 2006-07, including the details of funding amounts for each organisation can be obtained from

the community development foundation (CDF) website www.cdf.org.uk. A breakdown of this information by faith group is also available in the House Library.

Council Houses

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council houses are owned by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations in each London borough; and how many additional houses have been provided by (i) local authorities and (ii) housing associations in each of the last 10 years. [110615]

Yvette Cooper: Information on the stock of social rent housing by local authority area can be found on the Communities and Local Government website:

Registered social landlords

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/21/Table115_id1156021.xls

Local authorities

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/22/Table116_id1156022.xls

The numbers of social rent housing units built or acquired in each London borough in each of the last 10 years are tabulated as follows. The majority of public sector investment for new social housing goes to housing associations as they can lever in around 40 per cent. independent borrowing and deliver more units than local authorities for a given amount of public subsidy. The Government are currently looking at ways for local authorities to play a greater role in building more homes.

Social rent housing units built or acquired by local authority area: London

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
City of London	0	67	0	28	132	76	88	0	48	178
Barking and Dagenham	330	153	194	211	190	279	162	124	163	190
Barnet	171	259	344	132	159	145	177	113	142	216
Bexley	120	154	158	145	46	33	143	48	31	46
Brent	297	267	208	217	310	415	196	225	158	168
Bromley	326	157	167	266	264	147	168	90	60	212
Camden	436	284	183	323	158	164	126	81	188	72
Croydon	484	456	369	338	251	398	264	82	156	184
Ealing	76	173	208	166	137	119	120	122	171	188
Enfield	279	109	208	133	249	437	303	238	281	236
Greenwich	200	212	269	183	264	324	217	410	135	184
Hackney	533	640	560	328	191	271	300	226	229	130
Hammersmith and Fulham	291	314	267	107	167	132	116	358	166	68
Haringey	318	271	264	165	241	234	127	228	184	226
Harrow	113	71	85	53	118	113	102	90	52	25
Havering	143	64	58	57	19	183	36	28	69	6
Hillingdon	455	237	397	240	305	237	118	128	84	74
Hounslow	267	104	181	143	72	182	110	237	81	94
Islington	352	225	211	135	166	111	183	261	187	253
Kensington and Chelsea	405	269	141	225	93	114	121	178	25	79
Kingston upon Thames	143	82	84	61	113	66	41	39	127	4
Lambeth	294	220	199	217	190	166	215	206	173	288
Lewisham	222	326	367	183	254	196	191	277	399	318
Merton	229	212	119	187	76	103	75	55	108	101
Newham	430	457	365	232	187	351	246	217	292	266
Redbridge	111	197	89	167	151	258	159	90	179	92
Richmond upon Thames	95	21	70	70	55	41	13	98	123	60
Southwark	266	232	171	162	250	205	287	231	301	252
Sutton	309	63	39	127	204	127	161	111	214	266
Tower Hamlets	280	435	340	316	235	387	380	431	194	675
Waltham Forest	235	322	338	180	321	239	232	182	104	133
Wandsworth	189	72	83	121	60	49	61	49	98	9
Westminster	818	185	216	226	456	307	172	120	215	280
Total	9,247	7,310	6,952	5,844	6,084	6,609	5,410	5,373	5,137	5,573

Note:
Of the figures shown 303 units were provided by local authorities with the remainder provided by registered social landlords (RSLs). Includes RSL units with Housing Corporation funding and those funded solely through section 106 agreements.
Source:
Housing Corporation, local authorities

Council Housing: Greater London

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many leaseholders in *(a)* arms length management organisation, *(b)* council and *(c)* housing association managed properties there are in London in each borough. [126490]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not hold this information. A survey undertaken by the former Association of London Government (now London Councils) indicates that the number of leaseholders—i.e. owners of flats that were once owned by the local authority—in the following 19 boroughs is:

Borough	*Number of leaseholders (approximate)*
Barking	2,802
Brent*	3,340
Camden	9,316
Croydon	2,000
Enfield**	2,800
Greenwich	9,385
Havering*	2,206
Hillingdon*	2,500
Hounslow*	2,600
Islington*	8,900
Kensington and Chelsea*	2,500
Lewisham*	9,000
Redbridge**	2,500
Southwark	13,000
Sutton*	1,415
Tower Hamlets**	10,000
Waltham Forest*	2,000
Wandsworth	12,000
Westminster*	9,300
Total	107,564

Those LAs marked * have some or all their stock currently managed by an ALMO; those marked ** plan to have some or all of their stock managed by an ALMO.

Council Tax

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the causes of changes in the average level of council tax in England between 1997-08 and 2006-07. [128605]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newbury (Mr. Benyon) on 27 February 2007, *Official Report* column 1272.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many photographs of domestic properties in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales the Valuation Office Agency holds on its photograph database. [120819]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the VOA website:

www.voa.gov.uk.

Councillors: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the longest period of time is for which the Standards Board can suspend a councillor; and how many cases have involved this penalty; [126287]

(2) what powers *(a)* a local authority and *(b)* the Standards Board has to suspend a councillor who is subject to criminal charges not connected to their work as a councillor. [126288]

Mr. Woolas: The Standards Board has no remit to impose sanctions on local councillors; this is a matter for either local standards committees or, in the most serious cases, the Adjudication Panel. Local standards committees are empowered to impose suspensions of up to three months; the Adjudication Panel may impose suspensions of up to one year and disqualifications of up to five years.

From 2003-04 to date, the Adjudication Panel has imposed a sanction of five years disqualification in three cases, and a sanction of one year's suspension in 12 cases. For the same period, local standards committees imposed a sanction of three months suspension in 82 cases.

Following the High Court judgment in the case of the London Mayor last October, doubt has been cast on the extent to which the remit of the code of conduct can extend to behaviour by a councillor which is not directly related to his or her role as a member. We are therefore seeking, in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, to amend the Local Government Act 2000 to allow the remit of the model code of conduct to include the behaviour of members in their private capacity, if it involves criminal activity, as well as official capacity.

Departments: Conferences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which conferences were funded *(a)* in whole and *(b)* in part by (i) her Department and (ii) its predecessor Department in the last 12 months; how many people attended each; and what the cost was of each conference to her Department. [127056]

Ruth Kelly: The figures requested are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which postal companies handle mail dispatched by her Department and its agencies. [128248]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government and its agencies currently use Royal Mail and Royale Research Ltd. who are licensed by Postcomm for the distribution of mail. The Department also uses the Government Mail service provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency.

Electronic Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment has been made of the reasons for the levels of take-up of Government Connect by local authorities; [127044]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the business case model for Government Connect provided to local authorities; [127045]

(3) what the timetable is for the rollout of Government Connect to local authorities. [127046]

Ruth Kelly: Copies of the business case have today been placed in the Libraries to the House.

Government Connect has been collecting information on the willingness to adopt the solutions being provided by the programme. This research indicated that around 200 local authorities may be ready to sign up to Government Connect by the end of 2007. Currently 198 councils have signed a pre-contractual notice with Government Connect. We aim to have connected all local authorities by March 2008.

Research indicates that councils are signing up to Government Connect as they recognise that the programme has the potential to offer the wide range of service transformation possibilities around secure working with other local authorities and central Government Departments which they see as supporting efficiency and improved customer service.

Empty Property: Calderdale

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the estimate for the number of empty properties in Calderdale was calculated; and how many of these properties are *(a)* flats and *(b)* houses. [124635]

Yvette Cooper: Estimates for the total number of empty dwellings are based on council tax returns. Information is reported by local authorities to Communities and Local Government through the Council Tax Base (CTB1) return.

Estimates for empty dwellings by tenure are based on two further returns:

1. Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) as reported by local authorities;

2. Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported by registered social landlords.

Information on the vacancy split by flats and houses is not available centrally.

Greenbelt: M25

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the creation of a green arc around the M25 motorway; and if she will make a statement. [124694]

Yvette Cooper: At present, we are not aware of any specific recent representations on this matter as public consultation is still under way on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan. But this is an issue where we would expect the public to express an interest in.

The Proposed Changes are that "areas and networks of green infrastructure should be identified, created, protected and managed to ensure that an improved and healthy environment is available for the benefit of present and future communities". Assets of particular regional significance proposed for the retention, provision and enhancement of green infrastructure include green infrastructure projects around the fringes of Greater London.

Public consultation on the Proposed Changes ran until 9 March. The Secretary of State will then consider the representations received.

Home Information Packs

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the introduction of Home Information Packs on the operation of the housing market. [126553]

Yvette Cooper: The home buying and selling process is slow, expensive and uncertain, as housing market research carried out over a number of years has consistently found. By making key information available to both buyers and sellers early in the transaction process it is expected that HIPs will lead to reduced transaction times, a reduction in wasted costs and more certain and transparent transactions. It is also anticipated that HIPs will pave the way for further, market-led changes that will bring substantial further benefits to consumers.

Housing: Disabled

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to provide accessible housing mobility services for social housing tenants; and if she will make a statement. [123519]

Yvette Cooper: Mobility was identified as one of the key issues in the Hills review of Social Housing. The Government are currently looking at these issue as part of responding to the review. The social housing pages on the Directgov website (www.direct.gov.uk/socialhousing), provide information on the recent changes to social housing mobility and easy access to information and services; and signposts facilities for tenants to approach and apply to social housing landlords directly.

Other services providers offer access to services to exchange social housing and we have also listed 10 of these direct access "homeswap" services and are reviewing the market in order to add to the schemes listed to offer the widest choice to tenants.

The new social housing pages on Directgov also link to other Government services such as the "Looking for Work" facility which links to the Jobcentre Plus database with job vacancies throughout the UK; a variety of pages relating to local information i.e. schools, hospitals and care services; and information on benefits. Users can also access the full range of other Government services available on Directgov.

We are in discussions with London councils on providing a transitional service for the seaside and country homes (SSCH) and the LAWN mobility schemes, on a medium term basis under grant agreement. These arrangements are currently being developed. In the meantime, London councils are providing an information service to customers as arrangements are put in place.

The Department has also funded 26 local and sub-regional choice based lettings schemes, as well as one regional scheme for London, which will provide additional mobility services and the facility for social housing tenants to move home within areas and regions. Once operational, these will also be accessible through the social housing pages on Directgov. The first of these schemes (High Peak and Derbyshire Dales) is due to go-live next month.

Housing: Durham

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in the City of Durham have reached the decent homes standard. [123653]

Yvette Cooper: At 1 April 2006 Durham city council reported that 2,486 of the 6,334 homes they owned were up to a decent standard.

Registered social landlords operating within the city reported that they had 1,498 homes of which 1,414 were decent. We do not hold data on private sector housing decency at a local authority level.

Housing: Energy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2040W, on housing: energy, if she will place in the Library a copy of the summary of overall benefits published in April 2003. [128538]

Ruth Kelly: The summary of overall benefits expected to arise from EU Directive 2002/91/EC, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, is contained within the "Second European Climate Change Programme Report: Can we meet our Kyoto targets" published in April 2003. This is a European Commission report that can be found on the European Commission website.

Local Authority Housing

Mr. Speller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority houses were *(a)* demolished, *(b)* built and *(c)* sold under Right to Buy in 2006. [116942]

Yvette Cooper: During the financial year 2005-06 an estimated 6,245 local authority houses were demolished, and 26,654 were sold through the right-to-buy scheme. Information on local authority stock is reported by the local authorities. The aforementioned figures include estimates where individual local authorities have not provided any data.

In 2005-06 around 299 homes were built by local authorities. Increasingly social rent housing units are provided by registered social landlords who can lever in additional borrowing. By 2007-08 the annual provision of new social rent homes is set to reach 30,000 of which 28,000 will be delivered through Housing Corporation funding to RSLs and other developers.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the proposed right to manage on local authority finances. [124419]

Ruth Kelly: Groups of tenants of local authorities have had a right to manage their homes since the introduction of The Housing (Right to Manage) Regulations 1994. A local authority is required to provide reasonable support to the group to assist it to set up a tenant management organisation. The tenant empowerment programme (TEP), now administered by the housing corporation, provides financial support to developing tenant management organisations. In the main stage of development, the local authority is required to contribute 25 per cent. of the TEP funding. Typically a local authority will contribute about £28,000 towards the development, spread over three or four years.

Once a tenant management organisation is up and running, its activities are funded from management and maintenance allowances paid for the functions for which they are responsible. These allowances are based on the local authorities' own level of expenditure for those functions.

We are currently reviewing the right to manage regulations with a view to simplifying the process. A simpler process will reduce both the time and the cost of developing a tenant management organisation, though it may also encourage more tenants groups to explore the option. As part of the review we will assess the impact of proposed new regulations, including the impact on local authorities.

Local Government: Equal Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the implementation of single status and equal pay in local government; and what estimate she has made of the number of local authorities which have not yet fully implemented equal pay. [128598]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are fully committed to equality for all in the workplace, including the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. It is for local authorities, as employers, to tackle equal pay proactively and in an affordable manner. The Local Government Employers are currently conducting a survey of their members to identify how many have implemented the Single Status Agreement and when the remainder expect to do so.

Local Government: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)*

regulators and *(b)* other public sector bodies will have responsibilities for (i) regulating and (ii) auditing, inspecting or otherwise monitoring local authorities following the merger of the Benefits Fraud Inspectorate and the Audit Commission. [127093]

Ruth Kelly: Under proposals set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, the Audit Commission will oversee the inspection of all local services and will continue to appoint and assign auditors to local authorities. The Audit Commission will manage the overall programme of inspection and external assessment of local authorities. Other regulators and inspectorates with responsibilities in this area are the new Ofsted, the Adult Social Care Inspectorate which will replace the Commission for Social Care Inspection, and the existing five criminal justice inspectorates where they have an interest in local authority services.

Maps: Databases

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ordnance Survey's MasterMap Address Layer 2 includes information on the council tax bands of individual properties. [128447]

Mr. Woolas: No.

Neighbourhood Wardens

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new neighbourhood *(a)* warden and *(b)* manager schemes have been established since January 2006. [128219]

Mr. Woolas: Support for neighbourhood management and warden schemes has now been pooled within local area agreements, which focus on achieving a series of public service outcomes agreed between central and local government—in this instance safer and stronger communities. Information is no longer collected at the centre about the number and type of schemes (outputs) that local authorities and their partners choose to adopt to deliver their LAA outcomes.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rates bill in England was in each year since 1997-98. [124479]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the Minister for Local Government of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 238W.

Non-Domestic Rates: Safety Measures

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account is taken of the presence of *(a)* anti-fire sprinklers and *(b)* CCTV cameras by the Valuation Office Agency when calculating the rebate value of business premises for business rates valuations or revaluations. [128502]

Mr. Woolas: Anti-fire sprinklers and CCTV camera systems are both rated in accordance with The Valuation for Rating (Plant and Machinery) (England) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000 No. 540). However, the Valuation Office Agency makes no addition to the rateable value in cases where fewer than four CCTV cameras are installed, taking the pragmatic view that such cases do not constitute a "system".

Planning

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning authorities have adopted a statement of community involvement. [126459]

Mr. Woolas: There have been 224 adopted statements of community involvement as at 28 of February 2007. This represents 56 per cent. of all local planning authorities in England.

Planning Obligations: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what facilities were provided in Lancashire from agreements made under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in each of the last 10 years; and what the value was. [125314]

Yvette Cooper: Information on individual section 106 agreements is held by local planning authorities and not collected centrally. The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (England) Order 2002 (Statutory Instrument 2002 no. 828), which came into effect on 1 July 2002, requires details of planning obligations to be recorded in both Parts I and II of the local planning authority's planning register, which should be available for public reference.

Public Houses

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she has given to local councils on the criteria to be used in determining change of use of public houses. [125071]

Yvette Cooper: It is up to Local Planning Authorities to determine whether a change of use has taken place. ODPM Circular 03/2005 "Changes of Use of Buildings and Land: The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987" provides a guide to the Use Class Order as amended by SI2005/85. Copies have been placed in the House Libraries.

Public houses where the primary purpose is the sale and consumption of alcoholic drink on the premises now fall within the A4: "Drinking Establishments" class. Premises in this category have a permitted change of use to A3: "restaurant and café" premises, as well as to both the A1: "Shops" and A2: "Financial and Professional Services" uses. Any other change of use would require planning permission.

The existing primary use will be crucial in determining the appropriate classification. In making a determination as to the correct classification, some account may be taken of factors such as: whether the majority of customers on the premises are consuming

alcoholic liquor exclusively; whether there is a public house licence; and whether there is any obligation or expectation for customers to consume a meal. Where it is evident that the primary use of the premises is the purchase and consumption of alcoholic liquor on the premises, the use class will normally be A4, irrespective of the square footage which may be given over to dining as an additional service, or the revenue derived from that function.

Regeneration: Lower Lea Valley

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on non-Olympic regeneration in the Lower Lea Valley since July 2005; what plans her Department has for such spending; and if she will make a statement. [128408]

Angela E. Smith: To date, since 2005, the Department for Communities and Local Government have spent £37,941,704 on non-Olympic regeneration in the Lower Lea Valley. Regenerating the Lower Lea Valley was a priority, under the Thames Gateway programme, before the announcement of the 2012 Olympic Games coming to London and continues to be a priority as part of the Thames Gateway. The future regeneration of the Lower Lea Valley will be undertaken by the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation. The Development Corporation's vision for the Lower Lea Valley includes the building of 35,000 homes and the creation of 50,000 jobs by 2016.

Regional Planning and Development: Eastern Region

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* officials in her Department had with Arlington (i) in the period between the Government inspectors report into the East of England Plan and the launch of the consultation and (ii) since the consultation was launched; and if she will make a statement. [128512]

Meg Munn: Ministers have not met with representatives of Arlington in either of the periods in question. Officials have checked their diaries and can find no record of any official-level meeting during these periods either.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of stay was for tenants in *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord accommodation in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) the last year for which figures are available. [126506]

Yvette Cooper: Reliable estimates of how long social housing tenants remain, on average, in the same accommodation are not available. However, estimates of the lengths of uncompleted residence based on the time that existing tenants have spent in their current accommodation are as follows:

Lengths of uncompleted residence (in years) reported by existing social housing tenants

Number of years

	Council tenants		*RSL tenants*	
	Mean	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*
1997-98	12.4	8.1	8.2	4.5
2001-02	12.8	8.2	9.3	5.2
2005-06	13.6	8.8	10.3	5.9

Source:
Survey of English Housing

It is important to note that since these figures are based on uncompleted lengths of tenure, they are likely to be significantly below the equivalent figures for completed lengths of tenure.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of homes *(a)* in the private sector, *(b)* rented from local authorities and *(c)* rented from registered social landlords fell below the decent homes standard in each year since its introduction. [126507]

Yvette Cooper: Since 1997 the Government have been committed to improving the condition of homes, especially in the social sector. The decent homes public service agreement was introduced in the 2000 Spending Review. The condition of the housing stock is monitored by the English House Condition Survey.

	All non-decent		*All LA non-decent*		*All RSL non-decent*		*All private sector non-decent*	
	Number dwellings (Thousand)	*Percentage of stock*	*Number dwellings (Thousand)*	*Percentage of stock*	*Number dwellings (Thousand)*	*Percentage of stock*	*Number dwellings (Thousand)*	*Percentage of stock*
1996	9,099	44.7	1,869	53.9	448	47.6	6,781	42.6
2001	7,063	33.3	1,174	41.8	472	33.2	5,416	31.9
2003	6,717	31.3	975	39.7	467	28.8	5,275	30.3
2004	6,312	29.2	816	34.9	437	26.2	5,060	28.7
2005	5,987	27.5	729	33.7	433	23.8	4,825	27.1

Source:
English House Condition Survey

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities are required to conduct housing condition surveys of social housing. [127012]

Ruth Kelly: Section 605 of the Housing Act 1985 requires a periodic inspection of housing within its boundaries by the local housing authority.

The publication 'Decent Homes: Capturing the standard at the local level', published in 2000, states it will be necessary to repeat stock surveys periodically, or on a rolling stock survey format to assess the condition of homes that it owns.

Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless households in temporary accommodation there were in each year since 2002-03. [128477]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level.

The duty owed to a household accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until settled accommodation becomes available.

Information on the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter is available from 1997 onwards in Table 6 of our most recent statistical release on statutory homelessness. The release is placed in the Library each quarter, and is also available on our website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2309.

Note that these figures include both those households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, and those for which enquiries are pending.

Unitary Councils

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether councils which are preparing for unitary status will have elections pending in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 postponed or cancelled. [128503]

Ruth Kelly: The 2007 elections will go ahead. We will be considering the implications for the 2008 local elections for any council that is affected during that year by the implementation of a move to unitary structures which has been approved by Parliament.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 474W, on the Valuation Office Agency, from which sources the agency obtains information on the presence of bathrooms in new or altered properties. [114456]

Ruth Kelly: This information might be obtained from a variety of sources, including the house builder and the occupier.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency departments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency departments there are in each strategic health authority, broken down by type. [126549]

Andy Burnham: National health service trusts self-report the number of accident and emergency (A and E) services they provide against definitions provided by the Department. Trust information can then be grouped together to provide information for strategic health authorities.

The information is shown in the following table and was the position at the end of December 2006.

Strategic health authority	*Number of type one (major) A and E services*	*Number of type two (single specialty) A and E services*	*Number of type three (minor injury and illness, including minor injury units and walk-in centres) A and E services*
England	204	68	287
North East	14	2	18
North West	33	8	36
Yorkshire and the Humber	21	2	21
East Midlands	12	5	20
West Midlands	23	5	26
East of England	19	4	23
London	32	9	23
South East Coast	16	23	29
South Central	12	7	15
South West	22	3	76

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

Alcohol Misuse

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 931-2W, on alcohol drinks: misuse, if she will break down the figures for admissions by primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [125160]

Caroline Flint: The information requested by the hon. Member has been placed in the Library.

The Government are concerned by the growing number of people being admitted to hospital as a result of alcohol misuse, and is determined to tackle this. As stated in the 2004 Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, the Government are committed to reviewing the current strategy this year. We intend to identify

what future action is required to help the majority of the population to stay within sensible drinking limits and to make those drinking at levels likely to cause harm to their health more aware of the risks. The responsibilities of the alcohol industry, consumers, and Government will each be part of the review.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage the £15 million earmarked to improve alcohol interventions in 2007-08 represents of the total uplift in revenue for NHS primary care trusts (PCTs) for that year; and how much each PCT received of that £15 million. [126262]

Caroline Flint: The 2006-07 and 2007-08 primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations separately identify £342 million funding in support of public health initiatives, including £15 million for alcohol interventions in 2007-08. £15 million is 0.25 per cent. of the £6 billion uplift in 2007-08 PCT allocations. PCTs have been encouraged to invest additional funding to improve their local arrangements for commissioning and delivering alcohol treatment services based on local need.

PCTs were informed of their shares of the £342 million funding but not their shares of each initiative.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to persuade primary care trusts to give alcohol reduction strategies a higher priority in their funding. [117969]

Caroline Flint: "Alcohol Misuse Interventions—Guidance on developing a local programme of improvement" was published in November 2005. This document provides the policy context, evidence of associated harm and presents strong economic reasons for primary care trusts to give alcohol harm reduction strategies a high priority. It also outlines practical steps to support local delivery of alcohol interventions.

Alcohol specific commissioning guidance for local healthcare organisations will be developed and consulted on in 2007.

The Department is exploring the possibility of developing an alcohol interventions assessment and benchmarking framework that would encourage local investment in preventive interventions and treatment. The regulatory bodies are considering how they can support the development of such a framework.

Animal Feed: Additives

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Additives for Use in Animal Nutrition (England) Regulations 2003 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126669]

Caroline Flint: One-off costs will be borne by feed additive manufacturers in relation to changes in information required on labels. Detailed figures are not available from the industry, but these are unlikely to be significant.

Recurring costs for businesses will relate mainly to authorisation or re-authorisation of feed additives. The additional cost of authorisation for new feed additives is estimated by the industry to be in the range £10,000 to £100,000 depending on the complexity of the dossier. It is not possible to provide estimates for the cost of re-authorisations as this is dependant on guidelines yet to be issued by the European Commission.

Costs to regulators will be negligible.

Blood: Contamination

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects Lord Archer of Sandwell's enquiry into contaminated NHS blood and blood products to be completed. [128387]

Caroline Flint: This is an unofficial independent public inquiry, therefore it is not a matter for the Department.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to reconsider its decision on Gliadel; and if she will make a statement. [125233]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently carrying out an appraisal of Gliadel Wafers (carmustine implants) for the treatment of newly diagnosed high-grade glioma. The institute has not yet issued final guidance to the national health service but expects to do so by summer 2007.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals have been issued with the cancer drug Tarceva since March 2006; and which NHS trusts have *(a)* funded and *(b)* prescribed the cancer drug Tarceva since September 2005. [127019]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not hold the data requested for individual hospitals. Hospitals have been the main users of Tarceva (Erlotinib) with low usage by primary care trusts (PCTs). In the period September 2005 to June 2006, hospitals in at least 25 of the 28 former strategic health authorities had used Tarceva. In the period September 2005 to December 2006, six of the former 303 PCTs had prescribed the drug. To provide details of individual PCTs could potentially disclose the identity of the patients involved as prescribing has, so far, been minimal.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to record how many new cancer treatments developed through basic research *(a)* go forward to clinical trials and *(b)* become treatments for patients. [121934]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not collect the information from which an analysis of this sort could be made.

The report of the review of UK heath research funding undertaken last year by Sir David Cooksey[1] discusses drug development and the translation of health research into practice. The Government will take forward the associated recommendations made in the report.

[1] The report "A review of UK health research funding" is available at hm-treasury.gov.uk

Cancer: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research she has examined on the use of eggs from genetically modified hens in research into treatment for cancer; and if she will make a statement. [124150]

Caroline Flint: None.

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she expects the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) *(a)* to come to a conclusion and *(b)* to publish its findings on the effectiveness of a vaccine against human papilloma virus; and when she expects to make a recommendation following the JCVI's consideration; [128797]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the human papilloma virus vaccine. [128801]

Caroline Flint: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is in the process of thoroughly examining the vaccine safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness evidence concerning human papilloma virus vaccines. The work is being taken forward by a sub-group of JCVI, with further work ongoing to evaluate whether the vaccine is considered to be a cost-effective prevention of cervical cancer; and the impact that HPV vaccine may have on genital warts.

The sub-group's advice will be reported to the main JCVI committee for further discussion.

No decisions will be taken on introducing these vaccines into the immunisation programme until JCVI has presented its advice to Ministers for their consideration.

Clostridium Difficile

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the possibility of transmission of *Clostridium difficile* by airborne means. [124527]

Caroline Flint: *Clostridium difficile* forms spores and patients suffering from *C difficile* associated disease shed spores in their faeces. These spores settle onto environmental surfaces such as floors and toilets rather than remaining in the air and air borne exposure is not a significant transmission route. Spores can survive in the environment for long periods and infect others as a result of cross contamination, often by the faecal-oral route, through contaminated surfaces. Transmission is prevented by isolating affected patients and enhanced environmental cleaning to remove *Clostridium difficile* spores.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people contracted clostridium difficile from hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [125169]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available as requested. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) receives reports from microbiology laboratories of cases of *Clostridium difficile* associated disease (CDAD) under the mandatory surveillance scheme. All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of CDAD in patients aged 65 years and over.

The infections included in the table may not all have been contracted in hospitals in Lancashire. This is because the protocol asks trusts to report all positive samples detected in their laboratories, including samples sent to that acute trust from community hospitals, primary care trust hospitals, general practitioners, nursing homes and other NHS-run health care facilities.

Mandatory surveillance began in January 2004 and the figures for 2004 and 2005 are shown in the table and on the HPA's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/mandatory_report_2006.htm

Quarterly publication of mandatory surveillance data for CDAD started on 30 January 2007 and data for January to September 2006 is available on the HPA website:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results_Jan_2007.htm

Number of reported Clostridium difficile cases

Trust	*January 2004 to December 2004*	*January 2005 to December 2005*
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre	352	389
East Lancashire Hospitals	229	192
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals	279	271
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital	98	107
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay (Morecambe Bay Hospitals)	80	180

Source:
HPA

Complementary Medicine: Channel Islands

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints about food supplements and herbal remedies being marketed in the United Kingdom with health claims illegal in the UK by companies based in the Channel Islands have been referred by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to the appropriate agencies in Guernsey and Jersey in the last two years; and what information the Agency has received about the subsequent investigation of such complaints and the outcomes. [123911]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an Executive Agency of the Department of Health has referred nine complaints

to the Guernsey Authorities and seven to the Jersey Authorities; since 1 January 2005. The MHRA received feedback from the Guernsey Authorities on three cases. In two cases there were no offences under Guernsey law and in the third case the company was not actually based in Guernsey. The MHRA received feedback on three cases from the Jersey Authorities. In all three cases the companies were not actually based in Jersey.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date and for what reasons it was made illegal to offer *(a)* melatonin and *(b)* kava kava for sale in the United Kingdom; and what assessment she has made of (i) the implications for public health and (ii) the legality of the continued marketing of products containing (A) melatonin and (B) kava kava for sale to UK consumers by mail order from the Channel Islands. [123912]

Caroline Flint: A prohibition order on the: sale, supply and importation of kava kava in unlicensed medicines, other than for external use, came into force on 13 January 2003. The order was made following advice from the Committee on Safety of Medicines and the Medicines Commission that kava kava poses a rare but serious risk of liver toxicity. Similar action was taken in relation to kava kava in foods. The Guernsey authorities have investigated the supply of kava kava by a company apparently based on that island. The investigation showed that the product was not actually being distributed from Guernsey but from Cyprus. A complaint has been referred to the authorities in Cyprus by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

There are no special legislative restrictions on the sale or supply of the hormone melatonin. Unless it is being supplied as an unlicensed medicine in accordance with the relevant statutory controls, a medicinal product containing melatonin requires a marketing authorisation before it may be lawfully sold or supplied. The status of melatonin under medicines legislation was first considered in 1989. The MHRA is unaware of any implication for public health by the classification of melatonin as a medicinal product. The MHRA refers complaints about the sale and supply of melatonin from the Channel Islands to the relevant regulatory authority.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to stem the flow of direct mail advertising from the Channel Islands offering products banned in the UK and products for which promotional health claims are made that would be illegal in the UK and EU; and if she will make a statement. [123913]

Caroline Flint: There are no specific powers in the medicines legislation administered by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, an executive agency of the Department or in the Postal Services Act (2000) to control direct mail advertising from the Channel Islands. The legislation administered by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency does not apply to the Channel Islands. The islands have their own legislative assemblies and are responsible for the regulation of activities relating to medicinal products which take place from those Islands. Therefore, any suspected illegal activity is referred to the relevant authority in the Channel Islands for investigation. Advertisements issued from within the Islands would be the responsibility of the relevant authorities within those Islands.

Departments: Business Plans

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department expects to publish its business plan for 2007-08. [124926]

Caroline Flint: The Department of Health intends to publish its Business Plan for 2007-08 by 30 March 2007.

Departments: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what databases are controlled by her Department and its agencies; and what percentage of the data in each database she estimates is inaccurate or out of date. [124033]

Caroline Flint: Information relating to the number of databases held electronically and controlled by the Department and its agencies is contained in the following table and is listed by:

Department/agency name; and

Number of databases controlled.

Databases controlled by Department of Health and its agencies

Department/agency name	*Number of databases controlled*
Department of Health	974
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	47
NHS Connecting for Health	150
NHS Purchasing And Supply Agency	35

The accuracy and currency of the data contained in the Department and its agencies' databases varies according to the business requirement the database is designed to meet. Where the output from a database is intended for publication as a matter of public record (for example, as a report to Parliament or a press statement), every precaution is taken to ensure that that data within the database has been fully validated to ensure the highest achievable levels of accuracy. However, where the data contained is intrinsically dynamic and is not intended for public record (for example, the Department's internal staff location database), a lower degree of accuracy and currency is acceptable to meet business needs.

It is not possible to undertake an estimate for the accuracy and currency of the data contained in each database because of disproportionate cost.

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what powers she has to examine the *(a)*

veracity, *(b)* legality and *(c)* acceptability of claims made by companies outside the UK in their direct marketing to UK consumers; and if she will make a statement. [125351]

Caroline Flint: There are no powers in United Kingdom medicines legislation to require companies using direct marketing to have the claims they wish to make examined by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Reports of illegal medicinal products made to the MHRA are investigated regardless of the country of origin. The MHRA examines claims to see whether the product in question is thereby brought within the definition of a medicinal product. The MHRA does not assess the veracity of a claim unless an application for a marketing authorisation is made for a product. If the company is outside the MHRA's jurisdiction it is referred to the relevant regulatory authority.

Diamorphine

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to ensure the safe and secure availability of diamorphine for the treatment of patients with serious or terminal conditions; and if she will make a statement. [122909]

Caroline Flint: Both suppliers of diamorphine to the United Kingdom are working to their full available capacity, and are supplying the market on a regular and frequent basis. They are currently unable to produce enough to meet historic demand, although that demand may have changed due to changes in prescribing practice. We expect the situation to improve during 2007, and in the meantime we believe that through careful prescribing and use of available stocks, patient care is not being compromised. This is in part because we arranged for the increased production and availability of alternative drugs such as morphine when the problem arose in December 2004.

The amount of diamorphine held in the supply chain at any one time varies, according to a number of factors including the manufacturers' production schedules. All presentations are currently available.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will *(a)* increase the number of tier 4 interventions for young people with drug addiction and *(b)* increase access to services on a regional basis. [121272]

Caroline Flint: The young people's partnership grant for substance misuse has increased significantly year on year since its introduction in 2001. The grant is allocated by the Home Office to local authorities in addition to local mainstream funding for all aspects of the prevention and treatment of substance misuse by young people. A condition of the grant is that local drug partnerships show that they have referral pathways into tier 4 provision for young people. This is performance monitored by Government Office regional teams supported by the National Treatment Agency (NTA).

To support improvements in commissioning tier 4 services the NTA, with the Department and the Home Office, will facilitate the development of regional and sub-regional commissioning models for tier 4 services in 2007-08.

Family Planning

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist family planning clinics there were in each of the last five years. [124019]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department only currently collects aggregate data at primary care trust (PCT) and national health service trust level. As such we cannot identify data on numbers of individual clinics (of which there are many) within these organisations.

Data at PCT and NHS trust level is published in "NHS Contraceptive Services, England 2005-06" and a copy of the latest bulletin has been placed in the Library. The information is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/nhscontraceptiveservseng2005to06

Food: Advertising

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criteria the Government will use to assess whether the change in the nature and balance of food advertising to children has altered enough to avoid legislation, as set out in the 2004 Choosing Health White Paper; and when she expects that assessment to be published; [126327]

(2) what data the Government hold on the change in the number of advertisements for foods high in fat, salt and sugar seen by children at all times of the day since 2003. [126328]

Caroline Flint: Following Choosing Health, the Government will be assessing whether the new measures introduced in broadcast and non-broadcast media have brought about a real change in the nature and balance of food promotion. An interim review will be conducted in autumn 2007, and we will work with Ofcom and our industry partners on a more detailed review in 2008. On that basis, the Government will decide whether further action, such as legislation, is required.

The Department has commissioned Thompson Intermedia to collect and analyse impact and expenditure data across a broad range of media. This is an ongoing process and the information that we collect will be used to inform the interim review. We are keen to see what measures the food and drink and advertising sectors are taking on a voluntary basis to effect a change in the nature and balance of high fat, salt and sugar product advertising before, and in response to, the interim review.

Food: Hygiene

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2005 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126647]

Caroline Flint: The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2005 were replaced from 11 January 2006 by the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006.

The costs arising from the introduction of the European Union (EU) food hygiene regulations on 1 January 2006, to which the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2005 gave effect, were detailed in a full Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), a copy of which is available in the Library.

Subsequent to the publication of the full RIA, it was agreed that enforcement of the EU regulations at farm level will be undertaken in England by local authorities, for which the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has made funds available. The funding arrangements are detailed in a draft RIA, which can be found on the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/farmhygieneria.pdf

Food: Labelling

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* ongoing costs of implementing the Food Labelling (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126662]

Caroline Flint: The regulatory impact assessment compiled at the time that this regulation was implemented did not identify any additional costs. There was a transitional period of 12 months following the coming into force of the regulations to give businesses time to incorporate any changes needed into the normal commercial re-labelling cycle.

Departmental costs for negotiating, consulting and implementing particular regulations are not broken down. Legislation is enforced by local authorities and the regulatory impact assessment identified possible costs for local authorities of £100,000 per annum.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors there were in each English primary care trust in each quarter from Q1 1997 to Q1 2007; and if she will make a statement. [125077]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information has been placed in the Library. Primary care trusts (PCTs) were first introduced in 2001 so we have produced two tables showing health visitors by PCT since 2001 and health visitors by strategic health authority since 1997.

Health visitors are central to a number of Government initiatives and these will act as drivers on the demand for an increased health visitor workforce.

Health: Regulatory Impact Assessments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the progress in implementing the commitment in her Department's White Paper 'Choosing Health' for health to be a component in regulatory impact assessments of proposed legislation. [127828]

Caroline Flint: As part of the commitment in 'Choosing Health: making healthier choices easier' for health to be a component in regulatory impact assessments (RIA), the Department has successfully provided guidance on health screening and health assessment which is included in the Cabinet Office RIA guidance.

An assessment of the success in implementing this commitment has been made by both the regional directors of public health and the council for science and technology (CST) which show that, while there has been some successful consideration of health, there is still a need for greater consistency. The CST report provides a framework for this.

In May 2006, the Department published the first report showing progress against all choosing health commitments, which is available from its website at

www.dh.gov.uk/ChoosingHealth.

The second choosing health progress report will be published in spring 2007.

The Department is continuing to develop relationships with other Government departments to build health into all relevant future legislation.

Herbal Medicine: Regulation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* discussions she has had with and *(b)* representations she has received from (i) the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and (ii) other relevant public bodies on her plans for the future regulation of herbal practitioners. [125369]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is an executive agency of the Department. Ministers have had ongoing discussions with them, as with any other part of the Department.

We have received advice from the independent Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee recommending that statutory regulation of the herbal medicine profession be progressed in order to permit effective reform of the arrangements under s12(l) of the Medicines Act 1968 whereby practitioners prepare unlicensed herbal remedies for use in meeting the needs of individual patients.

We have established a working group chaired by Professor Mike Pittilo to look at the practicalities of regulation of acupuncturists, herbal medicine practitioners and traditional Chinese medicine practitioners. We are awaiting the working group's report and in the light of that we will consider next steps for the way forward.

Heroin

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the potential effect on the health of long-term heroin users of prescription of heroin on the NHS. [126625]

Caroline Flint: In consultation with the Department and other experts in the field, the National Treatment Agency for substance misuse (NTA) published 'Injectable heroin (and injectable methadone),

Potential roles in drug treatment' (May 2003), which provides guidance for drug treatment practitioners on injectable heroin in local drug treatment systems.

Substitute prescribing using methadone and buprenorphine is recognised as the recommended treatment for the majority of individuals requiring opiate substitution treatment. For a small number of heroin users who do not respond to other types of substitute prescribing, it is appropriate, when clinically assessed to be the case, to prescribe heroin. Doctors who prescribe heroin to drug misusers require a Home Office licence.

The Home Office is currently funding pilot trials relating to the prescribing of heroin for drug misusers. Full analysis and evaluation of these trials is due to be completed in 2008.

Homeopathy

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimates she has made of the effect on costs to the NHS in 2005-06 of the referral of patients to NHS homeopathic facilities; [125808]

(2) which London primary care trusts fund GP referrals to NHS homeopathic facilities. [125809]

Caroline Flint: Provision of complementary and alternative therapies on the national health service are a matter for primary care trusts and local NHS service providers. The Government considers that decision making on individual clinical interventions, whether these are conventional, complementary or alternative, are for local determination. The cost-effectiveness, efficacy, safety and availability of suitably qualified practitioners are all factors that have to be considered when these decisions are being made.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance she has issued to primary care trusts on provision of the option of access to homeopathy care and treatment in the NHS; and what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the use of homeopathic treatment to control rheumatoid arthritis. [127229]

Caroline Flint: The Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional or complementary/alternative treatments, have to be a matter for local national health service providers and practitioners as they are best placed to know their community's needs. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence for the safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatments, the availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient. Clinical responsibility rests with the NHS professional who makes the decision to refer and who must therefore be able to justify any treatment they recommend. If they are unconvinced about the suitability of a particular treatment, they cannot be made to refer.

To support policy and the delivery of effective practice in the NHS, research is commissioned through a number of national programmes that are open to everyone and priorities are set through widespread consultation.

Hospital Beds: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many respite beds are available in each London borough; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum waiting period is for respite beds in each London borough. [125857]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to NHS hospitals for *(a)* drug-related and *(b)* alcohol-related illnesses and injuries in each strategic health authority area in each year between 2002 and 2006. [126075]

Caroline Flint: It is not possible to identify the exact number of patients admitted to national health service hospitals for alcohol and drug related illnesses. Illnesses can be caused by or can be affected by drug and/or alcohol misuse but we are not able to indicate this with all cases. Drug and alcohol misuse related illnesses are not defined within one specific hospital diagnosis code.

National data from codes of primary diagnosis, which indicate the reason for a patient's admission to hospital is either drug or alcohol related are in the following tables.

Count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was alcohol related, by strategic health authority of treatment, 2001-02 to 2005-06 NHS Hospitals, England*

		Finished admission episodes				
SHA Code	*SHA Description*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	1,447	1,500	1,775	2,041	2,155
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	725	697	764	810	74
Q03	Essex	739	776	873	1,078	1,151
Q04	North West London	1,293	1,291	1,582	1,689	2,078
Q05	North Central London	837	1,069	1,061	1,378	1,556
Q06	North East London	1,090	1,122	1,334	1,471	1,586
Q07	South East London	1,445	1,80	2,104	2,690	2,986
Q08	South West London	867	922	1,112	1,296	1329
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	1,623	1,774	1,743	2,001	2,106

Count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was alcohol related, by strategic health authority of treatment, 2001-02 to 2005-06 NHS Hospitals, England*

		Finished admission episodes				
SHA Code	*SHA Description*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	845	1,087	1,459	1,510	1,441
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	1,381	1,183	1,351	1,320	1,397
Q12	West Yorkshire	1,829	1,800	1,869	1,730	2,061
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	1,474	2,163	2,112	2,339	2,360
Q14	Greater Manchester	2,090	2,562	2,949	3,626	4,289
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	4,021	4,117	4,472	4,564	5,068
Q16	Thames Valley	1,116	1,107	1,206	1,416	1,431
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	925	1,432	1,470	1,664	1,733
Q18	Kent and Medway	701	889	939	1,178	1,245
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	1,004	1,950	1,669	2,248	2,183
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	846	1,284	1,607	1,822	1,950
Q21	South West Peninsula	1,303	1,392	1,585	1,597	1,607
Q22	Dorset and Somerset	813	750	773	871	1,076
Q23	South Yorkshire	1,061	1,213	1,391	1,566	1,502
024	Trent	1,783	1,888	2,079	2,302	2,414
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	681	883	1,106	1,118	1,551
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	938	1,237	1,445	1,511	1351
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	2,002	2,363	2,566	2,779	2,965
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	882	1,322	1,295	1,566	1,533
Y	Not known	4,968	—	—	—	—
	Total	40,729	41,610	45,811	51,203	55,353

*Count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was drug related**, by strategic health authority of treatment, 2001-02 to 2005-06 NHS Hospitals, England*

		Finished admission episodes				
SHA Code	*SHA Description*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	3,932	3,709	4,375	4,020	4,664
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	1,139	1,115	1,226	1,594	1,663
Q03	Essex	1,289	1,277	1,606	2,100	2,241
Q04	North West London	1,214	1,354	1,894	2,014	2,728
Q05	North Central London	1,264	1,288	1,404	2,098	2,537
Q06	North East London	1,705	1,970	2,535	2,345	2,833
Q07	South East London	1,834	2,151	2,844	3,085	3,217
Q08	South West London	1,201	1,277	1,478	2,219	2,327
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	4,395	4,209	4,021	4,310	4,875
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	2,520	3,564	3,511	3,840	4,165
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	3,765	3,521	3,413	3,317	3,521
Q12	West Yorkshire	5,939	5,901	6,078	6,052	6,801
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	3,710	4,518	4,377	4,308	4,757
Q14	Greater Manchester	3,339	4,237	5,904	7,387	8,614
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	5,515	5,347	6,221	6,252	7,154
Q16	Thames Valley	3,057	2,858	3,371	3,646	3,540
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	3,698	3,692	3,678	3,633	4,234
Q18	Kent and Medway	1,640	1,774	2,382	2,804	3,475
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	1,752	2,911	3,404	3,920	4,992
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	2,273	3,064	3,847	5,249	5,995
Q21	South West Peninsula	2,974	2,856	3,683	3,742	4,200
Q22	Dorset and Somerset	1,783	1,563	1,550	1,872	2,249
Q23	South Yorkshire	2,923	2,680	2,572	2,569	2,743
Q24	Trent	5,285	4,799	4,850	5,243	5,274
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	1,812	1,674	2,159	2,620	3,703
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	2,539	2,534	2,918	2,723	2,780
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	4,651	5,478	5,934	5,875	6,504
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	2,468	2,403	2,516	2,933	3,748

*Count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was drug related**, by strategic health authority of treatment, 2001-02 to 2005-06 NHS Hospitals, England*

		Finished admission episodes				
SHA Code	*SHA Description*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Y	Not known	8,620	—	—	—	—
	Total	88,286	83,704	93,751	101,928	115,534

Notes:
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number *of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.*
Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Data Quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
**Codes used as advised by data standards for drug related conditions, Connecting for Health:
The ICD-10 code categories for mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use (including acute intoxication or abuse) are as follows:
Source:
Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES)f The Information Centre Health and Social Care
F11.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids
F12.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids
F13.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics
F14.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cocaine
F15.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine
F16.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of hallucinogens
F17.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco
F18.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents
F19.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances
The ICD-10 code categories for poisoning (either self-inflicted or accidental) are as follows:
T36.- Poisoning by systemic antibodies
T37.- Poisoning by other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics
T38.- Poisoning by hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
T39.- Poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and anorheumatics
T40.- Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens]
T41.- Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
T42.- Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs
T43.- Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
T44.- Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system
T45.- Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified
T46.- Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
T47.- Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
T48.- Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system
T49.- Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmotogical, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs
T50.- Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
*Codes used as advised by data standards for alcohol related conditions, Connecting for Health:
F10 - Mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol
K70 - Alcoholic Live Disease
T51 - Toxic Effect of Alcohol

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of a link between contract cleaning services and levels of hospital-acquired infections in hospitals; when the assessment was made; and if she will make a statement. [123066]

Caroline Flint: Recent information suggests that there is currently no difference between in-house and out-sourced cleaning.

We have also studied the link between cleanliness and healthcare associated infections (HCAI) as measured by *Metcillin*-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile* rates. Again, we found no evidence of a relationship with out-sourcing.

Current contract guidance makes it clear that quality must be considered alongside cost when deciding how to provide cleaning services.

Hyperactivity: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for drugs to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder were issued in each year since 1997-98. [127831]

Caroline Flint: We do not hold data on the total number of prescriptions for drugs used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Information on the number of prescription items relating to drugs mainly associated with the treatment of ADHD and dispensed in the community in England is in the following table.

	Number of prescription items (000)
1997-98	197.6
1998-99	227.5

	Number of prescription items (000)
1999-2000	255.1
2000-01	264.4
2001-02	286.1
2002-03	340.0
2003-04	395.6
2004-05	444.2
2005-06	502.0

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

In Vitro Fertilisation

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department gives to primary care trusts on the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines in relation to the number of IVF cycles that should be made available and funded through the NHS. [128434]

Caroline Flint: The primary responsibility for the provision of fertility services rests with the national health service at the local level. In welcoming the clinical guideline published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2004, we advised that the Department would be looking to primary care trusts (PCTs) who provide no in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment to provide a minimum national level of provision of one cycle of IVF by April 2005, and to make progress to the full implementation of the guideline in the longer term. We are funding the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help PCTs share best practice in the provision of fertility services and engage with fertility patients in the planning and prioritisation of services.

Insulin

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to submit a request to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to undertake a comparison of the different types of insulin in its future work programme. [122679]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued technology appraisals of inhaled insulin, insulin pump therapy and long acting insulin analogues in the management of diabetes. NICE has also published a clinical guideline on the management of type 1 diabetes and a guideline on the management of type 2 diabetes—blood glucose. These guidelines include advice on the role of insulin in managing those conditions. NICE is currently reviewing its published clinical guidelines on type 2 diabetes and expects to publish a revised guideline in early 2008.

We have no plans at this time to ask NICE to undertake a comparison of different types of insulin, but the need for further NICE guidance on aspects of the management of diabetes will be kept under review.

Local Government Targets

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets her Department sets for local authorities. [104907]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "National Standards, Local Action; Health and Social Care Standards and Planning Framework 2005-06 to 2007-08", published in July 2004, set out a standard-based planning framework for health and social care and standards for national health service health care to be used in planning, commissioning and delivering services.

The standards set out are focused on the provision of NHS health care, but recognise the need to develop services in a co-ordinated way, taking full account of the responsibilities of other agencies in providing comprehensive care. In particular the statutory duties of partnership on all NHS bodies and local authorities established under the Health Act 1999 and the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003. This introduced requirements on both the NHS and local authorities to work together to achieve the co-operation needed to bring about improvements in health care.

The following specific targets for 2005 to 2008 were set for local authority social services and social services in partnership with the NHS:

> improve the quality of life and independence of vulnerable older people by supporting them to live in their own homes where possible by:
>
> increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by 1 per cent. annually in 2007 and 2008; and
>
> increasing by 2008 the proportion of those supported intensively to live at home to 34 per cent. of the total of those being supported at home or in residential care.
>
> increase the participation of problem drug users in drug treatment programmes by 100 per cent. by 2008 (from a 1998 baseline); and increase year on year the proportion of users successfully sustaining or completing treatment programmes;

and although measured through NHS indicators, social services provide a major contribution to

> improve health outcomes for people with long-term conditions by offering a personalised care plan for vulnerable people most at risk; and to reduce emergency bed days by 5 per cent. by 2008 (from the expected 2003-04 baseline), through improved care in primary care and community settings for people with long-term conditions.

Maternity Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many episodes of maternity care there were in *(a)* consultant-led units with more than 3,000 live births per year, *(b)* consultant-led units with fewer than 3,000 live births per year, *(c)* midwife-led units in acute hospital settings and *(d)* midwife-led units in community settings in each of the last three years; [126388]

(2) how many deaths of women in the care of NHS maternity services there were in each of the last three years; and how many occurred in *(a)* consultant-led units with more than 3,000 live births per year, *(b)* consultant-led units with fewer than 3,000 live births per year, *(c)* midwife-led units in acute hospital settings and *(d)* midwife-led units in community settings. [126390]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 9 March 2007]*: This information is not collected centrally in the form requested. Data from the Office of National Statistics shows that in 2002, the last year for which information

is available, there were 596,122 live births, of which 582,569 took place in hospital, 12,684 took place at home and 869 took place elsewhere.

Confidential enquiry into maternal and child health (CEMACH)'s report on maternal death for the three year period 2000 to 2002 showed that there were 106 direct maternal deaths in that period, representing 5.3 deaths per thousand of the two million births. It is not possible to break these figures down by place of delivery.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many electronic patient records she expects there to be; and how many she expects to have *(a)* sealed and *(b)* sealed and locked data on them. [119873]

Caroline Flint: In the future, each person using the national health service will have an electronic NHS care record which will be made up of detailed care records, held locally by the NHS body that provides care to the patient, and a summary care record. At the local level detailed care records will be built up over time into a comprehensive health and care history.

The objective of sealing, and sealing and locking information is to reduce the number of people who might otherwise feel the need to opt-out completely of having a summary care record because of their concern about only a small amount of sensitive information in their record. It will be open to any patient to ask to limit access to such information, including to request that specific sensitive information is accessible only with their consent. The sealed envelopes approach has the confidence of the professions in being able to provide appropriate controls for the support of patient confidentiality.

It is not possible to predict with any certainty how many people may in future choose to exercise this option as this will be the first time such an approach has ever been used. However, there is ample evidence to suggest that only a small minority would have concerns about the content of their medical records that would lead to their choosing to seal information. In response to a Consumer Association Survey (October 2002) question on this subject 60 per cent. of respondents said that they would remove nothing, around a quarter (24 per cent.) said they would remove a little, and around four per cent, said they would remove "a lot" or "all".

This is paralleled by the available evidence about the likelihood of people to opt out of having a summary care record at all. The Scottish emergency care summary, which extracts data from general practitioners' records and hospital notes, currently contains records for nearly 4.93 million patients and less than 500 have opted out. Similarly, in the course of a consultation on establishing an electronic health record in the Wirral, of patients invited to opt out if they had concerns, only 25 opted out whilst 350,000 records were uploaded. And of the 1.3 million patients likely to be affected by a similar proposal in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, only some 1,150 decided not to have their records included in the data repository.

Midwives: Training

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places there were for midwives in each health region in England in each of the last three years. [124384]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information has been placed in the Library.

Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 428W, on missing persons, what bilateral contact her Department has had with other stakeholders represented on the missing persons strategic oversight group in the last two years; on what dates these contacts took place; and with whom they took place. [128783]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 20 March 2007]*: Departmental officials have met with representatives of the police, the Home Office and the National Missing Persons Helpline a number of times over the past year. Most recently, officials met with representatives of the National Missing Persons Helpline on 22 November 2006. Details of other meetings are not centrally available.

MRSA

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library information she has on the incidence rates of MRSA in other *(a)* EU and *(b)* World Health Organisation member states; and what comparative assessment she has made of rates in those countries and in the UK. [126514]

Caroline Flint: The best European data are from the European antimicrobial resistance surveillance system (EARSS) database. This provides information only as a proportion of *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infections that are resistant to meticillin.

A copy of the 2005 EARSS annual report has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.rivm.nl/earss/Images/EARSS%202005_tcm61-34899.pdf

It is difficult to compare different European countries as health services and surveillance systems differ. There is no overall trend but increases have been seen in some member states. However, our figures show that we need to reduce meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) cases and tackling MRSA and other healthcare associated infections (HCAIs), continues to be a priority. We have introduced a number of interventions to help the national health service. Between April 2003 and March 2004 and October 2005 to September 2006, there has been a 10.2 per cent. reduction in the 12-month rolling total. This shows that our actions are having a significant effect.

The World Health Organisation does not compile information on MRSA.

MRSA: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people contracted MRSA in hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [125168]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available as requested

The best available information is from the mandatory methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections surveillance that began in April 2001 and covers acute trusts in England.

The number of reported MRSA blood stream infections for national health service acute trusts within Lancashire is shown in the following table. The surveillance protocol requires all trusts to report MRSA positive blood cultures detected in their laboratories, whether acquired in the trust or elsewhere and these should include samples sent to the trust from other NHS run healthcare facilities. The cases recorded in the tables may not therefore have all been contracted in hospitals in Lancashire.

Number of reported blood stream infections (bacteraemias)

Trust	*April 2001-March 2002*	*April 2002-March 2003*	*April 2003-March 2004*	*April 2004-March 2005*	*April 2005-March 2006*
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre	44	40	64	62	55
East Lancashire Hospitals	57	66	63	69	53
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals	76	58	56	74	54
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital	4	11	10	13	14
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay	33	24	30	30	33

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Multiple Sclerosis: AIDS

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's budget was for research into *(a)* multiple sclerosis and *(b)* AIDS in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [126085]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Expenditure on multiple sclerosis research

		£ million
	Department	*Medical Research Council*
1997-98	0.04	n/a
1998-99	0.6	n/a
1999-2000	0.5	n/a
2000-01	0.5	1.5
2001-02	0.6	2.1
2002-03	0.1	1.8
2003-04	0.1	1.1
2004-05	0.1	1.4
2005-06	0.8	n/a

n/a = not available

Expenditure on HIV/AIDS research

		£ million
	Department	*Medical Research Council*
1997-98	1.1	n/a
1998-99	1	n/a
1999-2000	1	13
2000-01	1.3	15
2001-02	0.8	14
2002-03	1	11
2003-04	1	11
2004-05	1	11
2005-06	1	n/a

n/a = not available

The departmental figures relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include expenditure in the areas of human health concerned from the research and development allocations made annually to national health service providers. That information is not held centrally.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medicines were reclassified from prescription-only status to over-the-counter status in each year since 2002-03; and whether it remains her policy to aim for 10 such reclassifications to take place in any given year. [123131]

Caroline Flint: The NHS plan committed the Government to making more medicines available over-the-counter, where it is safe to do so. In response, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) implemented a new streamlined reclassification procedure in April 2002 and took forward an agenda on switching to encompass not just acute, short term, self limiting conditions but to new areas of chronic disease management.

Over-the-counter medicines include both those supplied by a pharmacist and those on general sale (GSL) available through outlets such as supermarkets. The number of marketing authorisations where the legal status has been changed from POM (prescription-only medicine) to pharmacy or from pharmacy to GSL for each complete year since 2002-03 is presented in the following table. It is noted there may be more than one new switch application for the same substance. Also many applications follow on from the initial change of legal status of the medicine.

	POM to pharmacy	Pharmacy toGSL	Total
2002-03	2	7	9
2003-04	5	12	17
2004-05	2	9	11
2005-06	3	6	9

Recent significant switches into new therapeutic areas include the first statin (simvastatin) to reduce risk of heart disease, a triptan (sumatriptan) for migraine, and an eye drop treatment (chloramphenicol) for infection. A consultation to extend reclassification to the eye ointment has also completed, and there is progress with new consultations into further therapeutic areas.

In February 2007, the MHRA led an important initiative to move forward the debate on widening access to medicines for women's health. A seminar supported by stakeholders and experts in the field of women's health explored the benefits and challenges associated with switches in this area. An important consultation on the reclassification of tranexamic acid for treatment of heavy menstrual bleeding was announced at this meeting.

It remains Government policy to promote widening the availability of medicines within the patient choice agenda, recognising the challenges ahead with moves into new areas, and the aim for such classifications to take place each year is reflected within the MHRA business plan.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* drugs and *(b)* treatments are not available on NHS prescriptions in England that are available in other parts of the UK. [123590]

Caroline Flint: English general practitioners are able to prescribe any drug/treatment on the national health service unless it is listed in Schedules 1 or 2 to the national health service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc.) Regulations 2004.

These lists are replicated in Parts XVIIIA and XVIIIB of the drug tariff, copies of which are available in the Library.

Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have similar arrangements backed up by their own legislation. A detailed comparison of the content of the respective lists could be possible only at disproportionate cost.

When a patient is being treated in hospital a consultant can arrange for the supply of any drug or other substance, even one not normally available on NHS prescription, provided the primary care trust or NHS trust: agree to supply it at NHS expense.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory responsibilities *(a)* she and *(b)* the NHS Director of IT has in the sale of (i) any NHS IT supplier and (ii) iSoft. [119555]

Caroline Flint: There are no specific statutory responsibilities attaching to the role of Director General for National Health Service Information Technology (NHS IT). Those of my right hon. Friend do not extend to the sale of commercial information technology companies.

However, contracts let under the national programme for IT, for which the Director General for NHS IT is responsible within the Department, contain contractual rights covering, for example, adverse changes in control which allow the NHS to refuse to continue to use those services if the purchaser of an existing NHS IT supplier were deemed inappropriate.

Through the national programme contract with its local service provider CSC, these provisions also apply in respect of iSoft as a subcontractor to CSC. The position of iSoft is being monitored both directly and in concert with CSC.

These provisions represent a considerable improvement on historic contracting arrangements for protecting the interests of the NHS in its procurement of IT goods and services.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which clinical specialists have been removed on a temporary basis as options on the Choose and Book IT system for general practitioners in Bedfordshire in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [122827]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her statement whether her Department has had to revise any of the *(a)* costs incurred and *(b)* total expected contract cost over five years of the choose and book computer systems referred to in the answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 63-64W, on the choose and book system. [123753]

Caroline Flint: The expected core contract costs have not changed, and no revision has been required. The total of costs incurred naturally increases over time as the choose and book system continues to be rolled out across the national health service. As at the end of January 2007,these were £34.6 million for core contract system development and related service charges. A further £39.7 million has been spent on the additional services and additional functionality that the original choose and book business case envisaged were likely to be required as the system is rolled out.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the national programme for IT in the NHS will be launched; [123970]

(2) what projection she has made of the total implementation cost of the national programme for IT in the NHS. [123117]

Caroline Flint: The first elements of the national health service care records service, to provide a transaction messaging service, a personal demographics service, a spine directory service and secure access controls via smartcards, went live on time and to budget in July 2004. Since then very substantial progress has been, and continues to be, made and the NHS is already effectively

dependent on systems and services delivered through the national programme for the diagnosis and treatment of patients. Over 38 million patients can now benefit from Choose and Book, and over 2.7 million bookings have been made to date, with daily bookings now exceeding 18,000. Over 13.5 million prescription messages have been issued electronically, with the daily count exceeding 100,000. 73 picture archiving and communications systems have been implemented, and around 160,000 patients are treated each week using the technology. Through the new national broadband network (N3), 98 per cent. of general practitioners practices now have a broadband connection. NHS mail currently has over 230,000 registered users, each with an email address for life, sending a million e-mails per day.

The national programme is being delivered by the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency. The value of contracts let for the core components of the programme amounts to £6.2 billion over 10 years. The National Audit Office have calculated that the full gross cost of the programme including national contracts and legitimately approved additions, other central expenditure, and local implementation costs is some £12.4 billion at 2004-05 prices. However, this figure does not take into account anticipated savings in the price paid by the NHS for information technology goods and services due to the central buying power of NHS Connecting for Health, or in NHS staff time saved through using the programme's systems and services. The National Audit Office also acknowledge an independent evaluation that confirms that £4.5 billion has been saved by central rather than local procurement, and also acknowledges a further £860 million of savings achieved through centrally negotiated enterprise wide arrangements.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts have bought new computer services outside the NHS national programme for IT during the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [123989]

Caroline Flint: The information is not collected centrally. In addition to the clinical systems and services being delivered under the national programme for information technology, national health service organisations have always been responsible locally for meeting their wider information technology (IT) needs, including for non-clinical services such as human resources and finance IT systems.

Systems deployed under the national programme are, however, already in place in every NHS trust, supporting access to care when and where it is convenient, reducing the numbers of failed appointments, improving the accuracy and handling of prescriptions and facilitating the capture, storage and transmission of X-rays and digital images so they are available to clinicians when and where needed. In addition, over 16,000 local systems, with well over 300,000 users, have now been delivered across the NHS by the programme's five local service providers supporting accident and emergency units, hospital theatres, mental health and pathology services, and many others.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the costs of *(a)* the Personal Demographic Service, *(b)* the Personal Spine Information Service, *(c)* the Transaction Messaging Service, *(d)* the Secondary Uses Services, *(e)* the Clinical Spine Application, *(f)* the Spine Directory Service and *(g)* the access control framework; and what the projected costs are in each year until implementation is complete for each. [123997]

Caroline Flint: The spine is the colloquial name given to the national database of key information about patients' health and care. It forms the core of the national health service care records service (NHS CRS). It also supports other key elements of the national programme for information technology, such as choose and book, the electronic prescriptions service (EPS), and 'GP to GP' record transfer, each of them using the spine's messaging capabilities as part of their own services.

The contract to set up and operate the spine under the national programme for information technology in the national health service is held by BT. Accounting information does not separately identify costs incurred in respect of the individual spine applications, and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Up to 31 December 2006 total expenditure under the contract amounted to £310.7 million, made up of £232.8 million in set-up costs, and £77.9 million in revenue costs. Set-up (capital) costs are incurred in phases as functionality is added to the spine through staged software releases over the implementation period. The ongoing service (revenue) costs average around £45 million a year, although this will fall in a range between £30-60 million in any particular year. These sums are in line with the contracted value of the work concerned, which is some £620 million over nine years.

On a typical working day the spine database is accessed by around 50,000 authenticated unique users, and processes; approximately 1.3 million personal demographic service queries, 16,000 choose and book bookings, and over 100,000 electronic prescription messages.

Growth in these volumes is rising dramatically with the increase in functionality across the NHS CRS and continuing roll out of the various elements of the system. The spine is already the world's biggest structured healthcare messaging system whose cost represents an investment of no more than about one pound per NHS patient per year over the life of the contract.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the compatibility of the new NHS IT system with hospitals' present IT systems. [124000]

Caroline Flint: Existing national health service information technology (IT) systems and databases are typically incompatible with each other. They have frequently been designed around the specific requirements of individual NHS organisations, and therefore do not support the transfer of information, sometimes even within a single trust, or elsewhere in the NHS. These shortcomings can result in clinical decisions taken on the basis of incomplete or inaccurate information leading to suboptimal quality

of care, avoidable inconvenience to patients and doctors, and additional administrative costs.

By contrast, the defining characteristic of the national programme for IT is provision of fully integrated systems that are interoperable, and ensure transmissibility of patient data across organisational boundaries. The national infrastructure will also speed up and make more certain the processes of identifying and contacting patients. This is becoming increasingly important as care becomes de-centralised from hospitals and takes place closer to, and in, patients' homes.

More than 50 existing systems from a range of care settings—general practice, acute hospitals, independent sector providers, and community pharmacies—have already been accredited to interact with national programme services such as choose and book, the electronic prescription service, the secondary uses service, and the general practice electronic records transfer system. The necessary development and upgrading of these existing systems has been coordinated by the existing systems programme of the Department's NHS Connecting for Health Agency.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of how long it will take hospitals to transfer all information from their present IT systems onto the new NHS IT system. [124001]

Caroline Flint: Deployment of new hospital systems under the national programme for information technology involves several key stages between initial preparation for implementation through to go live, during which a number of important organisational and technical activities have to be completed, including planning, training, testing and clinical safety assessments. All the stages in the run-up to completion of go live involve some transfer of data from legacy systems to local service provider systems, though legacy systems remain live and in service until the process is complete. These arrangements are quite typical of major information technology systems deployments in both the public and private sectors.

The process will normally take several weeks, involving anything between 0.5 million and up to 10 million records. The time scale in each particular case is dependent on a number of factors, largely to do with the size of the trust and any complexities identified during data migration. These might include difficulties in collating data from legacy systems, or the need to incorporate specific local requirements late in the process of implementation.

Systems deployed under the national programme are now in place in every acute trust, and in some 98 per cent. of general practices. Almost 17,000 systems have now been delivered with around 330,000 national health service users. New systems are supplied every week: to support one or more of patient administration, theatre management, accident and emergency and mental health unit, ambulance services, pathology services, and many more.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of their budget each hospital is expected to spend implementing the new NHS IT system; and what assessment has been made of the impact of implementing the new NHS IT system on hospital budgets. [124002]

Caroline Flint: There is no specific numerical target for year-on-year spending by national health service organisations on local implementation of the national programme for information technology. Each NHS organisation is free, and expected, to use its resources in the way that delivers the best possible value for money. However, evidence from the Department's most recent (2006) survey of investment in information management and technology in the NHS shows that the combined total of current and predicted future local NHS and central spending reflects significant progress towards the level anticipated in the 2002 Wanless Report "Securing our Future Health" as being necessary to deliver the breadth and quality of healthcare services envisaged in the report. Detailed information from the 2006 survey is available in the Library.

Any costs associated with implementation of the national programme locally are very significantly outweighed by the savings accrued from participation in the programme. Most notably, an independent industry analysis has concluded that some £4.5 billion has been saved by aggregate central procurement rather than local procurement, a figure confirmed by independent industry analysts. In addition, savings have been achieved in the prices paid by the NHS for information technology goods and services due to the central buying power of NHS Connecting for Health, as well as in NHS staff time saved through using the programme's systems and services. The National Audit Office have acknowledged savings of £860 million achieved through centrally-negotiated enterprise wide arrangements.

The national programme was not mentioned among a list of possible factors contributing to NHS deficits in 2004-05 in the June 2006 joint National Audit Office/Audit Commission report on financial management in the NHS.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of alternatives to a central database for storing patient records; [123999]

(2) whether an assessment has been carried out of *(a)* the implications and cost of removing the NHS spine system and *(b)* the impact of doing so on existing (i) patient care and (ii) patient records. [123998]

Caroline Flint: The alternative to a central database for patient records has existed and continues to exist in the status quo prior to the inception of the national programme for information technology. It is characterised by information technology (IT) that does not support the transfer of information between systems, encourages the creation of multiple records for the same patient within a single organisation, tolerates the loss and delay of records during their slow transit by hand, the unavailability of key information when needed, and the compromise of security and confidentiality of patient data. These shortcomings regularly result in clinical decisions taken on the basis of incomplete or inaccurate information, suboptimal quality of care, avoidable inconvenience to patients and doctors, and additional administrative costs.

Running the national health service on that basis would have an enormous negative impact on both the quality and cost of care including medication errors; patient procedures being cancelled due to lost X-ray

films; out-patient appointments not being kept because patients have little or no say over their date and time; and, because records cannot be located, countless patients being subjected to unnecessary repeat diagnostic procedures, and hundreds of millions of pounds a year to be wasted on uncontested clinical negligence claims.

As for costs, as a result of the national programme some £4.5 billion has been saved by aggregate central procurement of systems rather than local procurement, and a further £860 million of savings achieved through centrally negotiated enterprise-wide arrangements. Before the national programme, money was devolved locally for investment against agreed national targets for electronic health records systems, an arrangement which both the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee have severely criticised because the money was often not spent as intended, but diverted to meet other NHS priorities.

The national programme, with the spine database at its core, is not just about IT. It is a transformation programme for the NHS that will underpin system reform. Only a ubiquitous, effective, national IT system of the kind it is putting in place across the NHS can deliver key reforms such as patient choice, the 18-week referral to treatment patient pathway, whilst at the same time retaining flexibility to adapt to, and adopt, future policy.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many claims for clinical negligence there were against the NHS in each year since 1995; and what percentage of these claims were successful in each year; [123145]

(2) what the total cost to the NHS was of successful claims for clinical negligence in each year since 1995-96 in *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real terms. [123146]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows how many claims there have been under the clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST) in each year since 1995, what percentage were successful , and the amounts paid out to date in nominal and real terms. The year is based upon the year that the incident was reported to have occurred.

Number of CNST claims received (including Category A[1] claims) by incident year as at February 2007

Incident year[2]	*Yet to settle*	*Settle— nil damages*	*Settled with damages*	*Total*	*Percentage successful claims of all claims*	*Total paid on successful claims*	*Total paid on successful claims in real terms with 2005-06 as reference year*[3]
1995-96	189	3,513	2,354	6,056	38.87	303,925,180	390,137,840
1996-97	196	3,315	2,447	5,958	41.07	290,583,088	360,865,194
1997-98	222	3,367	2,510	6,099	41.15	269,576,245	325,315,866
1998-99	273	3,269	2,654	6,196	42.83	282,962,080	333,006,260
1999-2000	268	2,806	2,548	5,622	45.32	239,956,313	276,798,146
2000-01	362	2,619	2,534	5,515	45.95	195,415,698	222,293,164
2001-02	543	2,234	2,292	5,069	45.22	152,868,563	169,861,508
2002-03	1,163	1,996	2,061	5,220	39.48	80,105,894	86,339,614
2003-04	1,843	1,413	1,335	4,591	29.08	31,442,285	32,910,418
2004-05	1,405	895	746	3,046	24.49	12,249,695	12,478,171
2005-06	1,139	334	348	1,821	19.11	2,466,565	2,466,565
2006-07	297	22	33	352	9.38	120,580	117,429
Total	7,900	25,783	21,862	55,545	39.36	1,861,672,185	2,212,590,175

[1] Category A claims are those that fell within the excess claim limit and were handled by individual trusts before the excess was removed in 2002.

[2] Claims have been considered in the year that the incident occurred Additional points to note:

Claims may still be made for incidents that have yet to be reported within the stated years.

Successful claims are those claims that have been settled with damages, including claims which are still open due to legal costs being unresolved or where periodic payments are being made. This means that the costs for those claims will rise over time and therefore the figure will increase.

Category A claims were handled by individual trusts and reported to the NHS Litigation Authority. Therefore, the NHS Litigation Authority cannot 100 per cent. validate the accuracy of the data around these claims as the data were not: produced by the NHS Litigation Authority.

[3] Real terms calculated using the deflator series provided by HMT, on 21 December 2006.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average pay per head of NHS staff in England was in each year since 1997; and what the average paybill per head was for each NHS organisation in England in the latest year for which figures are available. [123147]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information has been placed in the Library.

Table 1 shows average paybill per full-time equivalent and average earnings per full-time equivalent for national health service staff in England between 1996-97 and 2005-06. Tables 2a to 2c show average paybill per full-time equivalent by NHS organisation in 2005-06.

NHS: Pensions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated total staff pensions liability is of the NHS Pensions Agency. [123375]

Caroline Flint: Total long-term liabilities of the NHS pension scheme accrued to date, and projected until the

death of the last current contributing, deferred and pensioner members, were estimated at £165.4 billion pounds in the resource accounts for 2005-06, spread over approximately 80 years. Gross expenditure on benefits in 2005-06, met through scheme employer and member contributions was £3.78 billion.

Nitrous Oxide

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prosecutions there have been since 1977 under section 52 of the Medicines Act 1968 for the sale of nitrous oxide; and if she will make a statement. [124761]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency reports that since 1995 there has been one prosecution involving the sale of nitrous oxide.

There are no records held prior to this date.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the availability of nitrous oxide for recreational use in nightclubs and bars; and what assessment she has made of the health effects of inhalation of nitrous oxide. [126628]

Caroline Flint: Inhaling nitrous oxide produces a rush caused by oxygen starvation which may result in unconsciousness. There are also thought to be long term effects on the nervous system. All of these risks are likely to be exacerbated if the drug is combined with alcohol or other narcotics. The risks are particularly severe for pregnant women.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has been alerted to increasing reports that nitrous oxide is available for sale in pubs and nightclubs. A number of reports have come from Trading Standards departments within local councils. Local authorities are responsible for the licensing of premises in the pub and nightclub sector.

Officials from MHRA have met with representatives from Local Authority Co-ordinator of Regulatory Services and Trading Standards (LACORS) to discuss the extent of the problem and to explore ways of tackling it. A strategy has been agreed involving joint action by MHRA and Trading Standards.

MHRA is also contacting manufacturers of nitrous oxide and investigating how supplies come to enter the recreational market.

Nutrition

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to revise the nutrient profiling model used by the Food Standards Agency. [126261]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency will review impact of agency nutrient profiling model after one year of use. The review process will include a consultative stage.

Obesity: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in Lancashire under the age of 12 years were classified as *(a)* obese and *(b)* overweight in each of the last five years. [126220]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on obesity and overweight prevalence by Government office region (GOR) are available from the Health Survey for England (HSE). However, due to small sample sizes in each year, data cannot be provided for each of the last five years. The most recent available information which can be provided by GOR combines information from the 2002, 2003 and 2004 HSE to achieve a sufficiently large sample for analysis at this level.

Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in the North West Government office region (GOR), by age, 2002-04

Percentage/number

	Overweight including obese	*Obese*
Aged 2-10	27.2	14.4
Aged 11-15	35.6	20.8
Aged 2-15	30.4	16.8
Bases (unweighted)		
Aged 2-10	891	891
Aged 11-15	584	584
Aged 2-15	1,475	1,475
Bases (weighted for selection only)		
Aged 2-10	1,021	1,021
Aged 11-15	634	634
Aged 2-15	1,655	1,655

1. Data are aggregated over the three years, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to achieve a sufficiently large sample for analyse at this level.
2. Unweighted figures are raw unadjusted figures.
3. Weighted figures are adjusted for child selection only and not non-response.

Sources:
Health Survey for England 2002. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2003. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre

Patients: Databases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the security implications of housing patient data in a central database. [123990]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 13 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1178W.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* Government agencies and *(b)* other public bodies will have access to a centrally held NHS patient database; [123991]

(2) what arrangements are being put in place to ensure that patients have access to their records for the purpose of allowing mistakes to be discovered and corrected. [123993]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 799W.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place to allow patients to opt-out of the centrally held NHS database; and what the conditions for opt-out are. [123992]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 441W.

Plastic Surgery

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to regulate the use of dermal fillers. [117965]

Caroline Flint: Most dermal fillers used in the United Kingdom are regulated as medical devices under the Medical Devices Regulations 2002, as amended. CE-marking of a product under the Medical Devices Directive denotes that the risks are outweighed by the benefits expected from its use for the medical purpose intended by the manufacturer.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the findings of her Department's review of prescription charges; who is undertaking the review; whether third-party organisations are contributing to the review; whether she plans to consult on the results of the review; and if she will make a statement. [124981]

Caroline Flint: The Government said in its response to the Health Select Committee's Report on national health service charges, that the Department would undertake a review of the current exemptions for prescription charges and put forward options that would be expenditure neutral for the NHS. We have undertaken to report the outcome of the review to Parliament before the summer recess 2007.

The Department welcomes comments on possible options for changing the current prescription charge arrangements from all organisations that wish to make representations. We will consider the next steps once the outcome of the review has been submitted to Parliament.

Smoking: Housing

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Smoke Free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007 will apply to privately owned houses *(a)* when they are being used for public purposes and *(b)* when in private use. [127250]

Caroline Flint: Where a privately owned house is used as a private dwelling, regulation three will exempt the dwelling from the smoke-free provisions of the Health Act, except any part of it which is shared or used exclusively for work in the circumstances set out in that regulation.

However, regulation three needs to be considered in the context of Section 2 of the Health Act 2006. That section requires only public and work places to be smoke-free and it provides that where public places are not also work places, they are only required to be smoke-free when they are open to the public. Work in this context includes voluntary work.

Sunitinib

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the licensed drug Sunitinib is available on NHS prescription. [126264]

Caroline Flint: Sunitinib (sutent) is licensed for use in the treatment of renal cell carcinoma and gastrointestinal stomal tumour and is available on national health service prescription.

The Department is currently considering referring Sunitinib to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for appraisal. Guidance issued by the Department makes it clear that it is not acceptable for NHS organisations to refuse to fund a treatment simply because if has not been appraised by NICE.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 22 March 2007

WALES

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department and its agencies have made payments to *(a)* Solutions in Staffing and Software and *(b)* SThree in each year since 1997. [129330]

Mr. Hain: No.

DEFENCE

Ammunition

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much ammunition was allocated on all courses involved in the training of artillery personnel and forward observation officers to call in fire in each year since 2001; what the cost of this ammunition was; and if he will make a statement. [128190]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The quantity and cost of the 105 mm and 155 mm artillery ammunition allocated and fired at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, and the number of personnel trained, in Support of Phase 3 training is as follows:

Year[1]	*Quantity*	*Cost (£ million)*
2001-02	35,887	23.2
2002-03	22,266	15.2
2003-04	20,541	16.5
2004-05	19,268	16.5
2005-06	19,169	16.1
2006-07[2]	19,979	14.0

[1] The year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

[2] The 2006-07 figures include approximately 1,000 rounds remaining this financial year which will be fired before 1 April 2007 and 6,000 marker rounds which were at the end of their shelf life. These marker rounds were fired in lieu of being destroyed and as a result, £3.1 million was saved from the initial budget allocation of £17.1 million.

Armed Forces

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people working in his Department previously served in the armed forces. [128325]

Derek Twigg: A total of 600 (rounded to the nearest 10) retired officers were working for the Department as at 1 January 2007. This figure is the best estimate available from centrally held records, but may not include all ex-service personnel working for the Department.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people working for his Department are members of the territorial forces. [128326]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies financed the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme in each of the last five financial years; and how much was contributed by each. [128643]

Derek Twigg: We are profoundly grateful to the sponsors of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, AugustaWestland and their predecessors). Since 2002 each has contributed an average of £40,500 per year to the scheme. We are also grateful to Sir Neil Thorne for the very considerable moral and financial support he has lent the scheme since its inception in 1989.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cadets there were in *(a)* the Army Cadet Force and *(b)* the Air Training Corps in each year since 1999-2000. [128824]

Derek Twigg: The following table provides the number of cadets[1] in the Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps from 1 April 1999 to 1 April 2006.

[1] Figures are for Army and Air Cadets only. Figures do not include officers/instructors or single service elements of the Combined Cadet Force.

As at 1 April each year	*Army Cadet Force*	*Air Training Corps*
1999	40,530	33,300
2000	42,760	34,280
2001	40,570	33,180
2002	40,700	34,050
2003	43,550	34,650
2004	44,240	33,190
2005	44,050	31,470
2006	44,390	30,170

Armed Forces: Complaints

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in setting up an independent complaints commissioner for the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [128275]

Derek Twigg: The recruitment process for the position of Service Complaints Commissioner will begin shortly.

Armed Forces: Dogs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military dogs are in service in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Royal Air Force and *(d)* Ministry of Defence Police; and what the annual cost is of feeding those dogs. [127983]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]*: There are currently 998 operational military working dogs in the armed forces and military police, comprising 467 in the Army, 272 in the RAF, none in the Royal Navy, and 259 in the Ministry of Defence Police.

The annual cost of feeding the dogs is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training members of the armed forces are receiving to use modern fire appliances in the event of a fire-fighter strike. [129240]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1539W, to the hon. Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer).

Armed Forces: Officers

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many senior *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force officers who attended the higher command staff course in each year from 2003 to 2006 remained in service 12 months later. [127717]

Derek Twigg: In each service, all the officers attending the higher command staff course in 2003, 2004 and 2005 remained in service 12 months later, with the exception of army officers attending in 2003, when fewer than five officers left within 12 months.

Of the attendees in 2006, all remain in service nine months later at 1 January 2007.

Armed Forces: South Africa

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel serving in the armed forces are UK-South African dual nationals. [128181]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]*: On 6 October 2006 there were 35 UK regular naval service personnel with UK/South African dual nationality.

At 6 March 2006 there were five UK Regular RAF personnel with UK-South African dual nationality.

The number of Army personnel with UK-South African dual nationality is not known.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's rules and regulations which govern the operation of the safety for joint service adventurous training scheme. [128811]

Derek Twigg: Yes. A copy of Joint Service Publication 419 will be placed in the Library of the House. The publication includes the rules and regulations for the safe operation of the joint service adventurous training scheme.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128245]

Des Browne: The MOD dispatches relatively little mail externally. Official mail within the Department is primarily distributed by the internal Defence Mail Service, provided by the British Forces Post Office, while mail for personnel serving overseas is usually distributed by RAF air transport. Most external mail is sent through the Royal Mail Group, or, exceptionally through other approved carriers. The names of these carriers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department takes to assist service personnel discharged from the three armed forces on medical grounds to *(a)* achieve the maximum fitness and mobility possible and *(b)* assist in securing alternative employment. [127363]

Derek Twigg: Health care for service personnel is provided by Defence Medical Services. Treatment aims to assist injured service personnel to recover the best level of fitness and mobility possible. If medical discharge is appropriate, it will only be used as a last resort. Once they leave the armed forces, responsibility for their health care passes to the NHS and there are processes in place to assist the smooth transition from DMS to NHS treatment. If a veteran is also a war pensioner, he or she will be entitled to priority NHS treatment for the accepted condition(s). priority is decided by the clinician in charge and is subject to clinical need.

Those who are medically discharged from the armed forces are entitled to the full resettlement programme (FRP) offered within the MOD's resettlement package, provided by the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), irrespective of their length of service[1]. The FRP includes briefings, workshops, individual counselling, coaching, CV preparation and analysis of transferable competences, job finding, and conversion and skills enhancement training. All discharged personnel remain on the CTP books for two years after discharge. Thereafter, the Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA) and the Officers' Association (OA) offer ex-service personnel support for the rest of their working lives. The RFEA and OA are particularly concerned with job-finding activities, and are sub-contractors on the CTP contract.

To help achieve the Department's aim of a successful return to civilian life for ex-service personnel, whether medically discharged or not, the CTP offers at its resettlement training centre (RTC) at Aldershot around 40 job-related courses. Many courses result in recognised qualifications while others can lead to employment with companies which have established close links with the RTC. Such training is not mandatory for service leavers. Service leavers who do not choose the RTC route may make use of the individual resettlement training costs (IRTC) grant,

currently a maximum of £534, for training courses not offered by the RTC but available in the wider training market.

[1] The FRP is normally only available to those who have served at least five years with the armed forces.

Hilsea

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to require the selection of bids for the MOD site at Matapan Road, Hilsea to be based on best value criteria. [128355]

Derek Twigg: The selection of bids for the sale of the MOD site at Matapan road, Hilsea was made at formal tender held on 2 March 2007. At this formal tender Defence Estates (DE) accepted the highest compliant bid. This bid was received from a national house builder with a proven track record for delivering a wide range of residential development schemes on surplus Government sites.

Formal tender is an Office of Government Commerce recognised method of selling surplus public sector assets. DE and its agent Drivers Jonas are confident that best value was achieved in this sale through formal tender.

Land: Sales

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) under what circumstances Defence Estates does not follow the Treasury Guidelines (Green Book) when disposing of *(a)* sites and *(b)* contaminated sites; and if he will make a statement; [128353]

(2) at what level in his Department decisions are made about whether or not to apply the Treasury Guidelines (Green Book) to disposals of contaminated land. [128354]

Derek Twigg: In common with all other Government Departments, the MOD is bound by the Treasury Guidelines as set out in Government Accounting, the Green Book and the accompanying Guide for the Disposal of Surplus Property published by the Office of Government Commerce. These will always be followed unless there are exceptional circumstances, for example, when it has been decided to gift a property, which would require individual approval by an appropriate authority.

The Chief Executive of Defence Estates (DE), the Ministry of Defence (MOD) agency responsible for the defence estate, has full authority to act within the delegated authority from the MOD Accounting Officer in the disposal of land and buildings.

In the case of contaminated land, it is normal, unless the land is remediated by the Ministry of Defence, to sell with the benefit of a Land Quality Assessment (LQA) and therefore transfer the risk to the private sector. The LQA will usually include an evaluation of the potential types and level of contamination, together with a Collateral Warranty, which should allow prospective purchasers to make an informed bid.

Territorial Army: Pay

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army were employed and paid under the provision of section 29 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 in each of the last three years; how many earned *(a)* under £5,000, *(b)* under £10,000 and *(c)* under £20,000; and how many have been exempted from paying maintenance for their children through the Child Support Agency as a consequence. [128194]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* No members of the Territorial Army have been employed under section 29 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996, which can authorise, among other things, the High Readiness Reserve. Were any personnel to be employed in this manner they would be paid according to their rank, seniority and trade group. There are no exemptions for such personnel from existing CSA procedures.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Age

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what percentage of hon. Members were under 45 years of age in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2006; [127507]

(2) what the average age of hon. Members was in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2006. [127508]

Mr. Straw: The House of Commons Library Members database indicates the following:

	Percentage of hon. Members under 45 years of age	*Average age of hon. Members (Years)*
1985	33.2	50.1
1997	32.6	49.3
2006	23.5	51.8

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

1 Parliament Street: Lifts

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost has been of the modernisation of the lift system within the 1 Parliament Street building; how long this work has been running; and when he expects work to be completed. [128778]

Nick Harvey: The modernisation of the lifts in 1 Parliament Street has cost £337,000.

The work commenced in August 2006 and is due for completion in September 2007.

The lifts have been upgraded to accommodate an evacuation lift to comply with the Disability Discrimination Acts and refurbished in line with the lift refurbishment programme. This project was planned over two summer recesses to ensure continual availability of lifts during the refurbishment programme.

Energy Usage

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to his answer of 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 147W, on energy usage, what the energy consumption of each building on the parliamentary estate was in each of the last three years. [120472]

Nick Harvey: The energy consumption of each building on the parliamentary estate in each of the past three years is given in the following table. Please note that 2 Millbank is heated from boilers located in 1 Millbank and its heating energy consumption is not metered separately.

Energy consumptions from in invoices

Estimated energy consumptions corrected where possible using actual readings (MWh)

	2003-04			*2004-05*			*2005-06*		
Building	*Gas*	*Electricity*	*Total*	*Gas*	*Electricity*	*Total*	*Gas*	*Electricity*	*Total*
Palace of Westminster	19,526.4	15,182.3	34,708.7	18,040.3	15,440.3	33,480.6	19,482.7	15,440.3	35,043.6
Portcullis House	3,616.7	4,044.5	7,661.2	3,328.8	3,932.3	7,261.1	3,493.9	3,942.2	7,436.1
Norman Shaw North and South	3,117.1	1,880.2	4,997.3	2,692.8	1,867.4	4,560.3	3,112.4	1,945.4	5,057.9
1 Canon Row	—	858.3	858.3	—	830.9	830.9	—	819.0	819.0
1 Parliament Street	2,007.8	2,296.6	4,304.4	1,971.7	2,299.7	4,271.4	2,162.6	2,305.4	4,468.0
Parliamentary Bookshop	—	29.7	29.7	—	33.4	33.4	—	35.5	35.5
Millbank House	—	778.5	778.5	—	778.3	778.3	—	728.4	728.4
7 Millbank	1,924.0	3,171.7	5,095.7	2,018.4	3,295.9	5,314.2	2,082.2	3,475.3	5,557.6
Fielden House	—	—	—	—	131.2	131.2	—	383.9	383.9
6 and 7 Old Palace Yard	309.0	202.7	511.8	176.9	217.3	394.2	214.0	231.7	445.7
1 Abbey Gardens	110.6	46.0	156.6	107.7	36.0	143.7	1151.5	39.6	151.1
2 Abbey Gardens	135.2	67.6	202.8	106.8	56.4	163.2	107.1	56.4	163.5
Underground Car Park	—	382.4	382.4	—	412.9	421.9	—	361.2	361.2
22 John Islip Street	64.4	68.2	132.7	63.6	24.4	88.0	14.0	48.9	62.9
Total	30,811.3	29,008.6	59,819.9	28,506.9	29,356.5	57,863.4	30,780.6	29,933.8	60,714.4

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds: Conservation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the individuals and organisations consulted in the current review of Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are *(a)* bird keepers, *(b)* bird watchers, *(c)* bird keeping clubs, *(d)* bird watching clubs, *(e)* falconry centres or zoos, *(f)* raptor study groups (field ornithologists), *(g)* bird keeping magazines, *(h)* bird watching magazines and *(i)* conservation organisations. [126924]

Barry Gardiner: It is impossible to state with any accuracy the percentages of individuals and organisations consulted. In accordance with best practice for such public consultations, my officials aimed the distribution at the major organisations which represented all of the groups of bird watching, bird conservation, rescue centres, bird keepers, zoos and enforcement authorities. These in turn were able to use their membership lists to circulate the details of the consultation more widely. The consultation document was also available via the DEFRA website.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) controls and *(b)* bird registration under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in tracing and reliably identifying the provenance of individual birds. [126925]

Barry Gardiner: The convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) controls and bird registration controls relate to different activities and species. Where the controls are duplicated, as is the case with many species of diurnal birds of prey, assessing their relative effectiveness in tracing and identifying the provenance of individual birds is very difficult.

In general terms, bird registration achieves nothing in identifying the provenance of individual birds as there are no legal powers to assess the captive bred status under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It does however give powers to trace where individual birds are kept.

CITES controls provide the powers needed to inquire into breeding status, but do not enable the tracing of individual birds, unless there is a specific conservation reason to do so and an element of commercial activity is involved.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria and methodology are used to assess the sustainability of wild bird species levels. [126926]

Barry Gardiner: In England, the principal method used to assess wild bird population levels is the analysis of trends for the wild bird indicators compiled for the England biodiversity strategy (EBS) and the farmland bird public service agreement (PSA).

Indices for individual bird species are based on the annual field counts of breeding birds compiled by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for

the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). These individual indices are then compiled to show the average population trends with separate indicators compiled for farmland, woodland, wetland and sea birds. The EBS indicator compiles indices for 96 species, 19 of which are used in the farmland bird PSA indicator.

The assessment for the EBS indicator is based on the percentage change in the combined index since 2000 (and is currently assessed as stable). The assessment for the PSA indicator is based on the annual rate of change in the long-term trend—to which is applied a statistical technique that removes short-term peaks and troughs due to weather or gaps in the data. The farmland birds target will be met when the annual percentage change in the 'smoothed' long-term trend is positive. As with the EBS indicator, the trend was assessed as stable in 2006.

Further information on the methodology and criteria used in the assessment for farmland bird PSA targets can be found in the following report: "Freeman, S.F., Baillie, S.R. and Gregory, R.D. 2001. Statistical Analyses of an Indicator of Population Trends in Farmland Birds".

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of bird rings used by keepers of birds listed on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were supplied by *(a)* keepers and *(b)* his Department. [126931]

Barry Gardiner: There are 9,584 registered birds, of which 280 are registered with rings not supplied by my Department. The latter figure includes birds which have had rings fitted in other countries before they were imported into the UK. Under current regulations, only keepers in Wales may supply their own rings. There are approximately 60 birds registered in this way.

Carbon Dioxide: Aviation

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the proportion of carbon emissions in the UK which is due to aircraft taking off and landing at UK airports; and what his estimate is of the likely change in this proportion over the next *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 50 years. [127980]

Ian Pearson: Carbon dioxide emissions from UK domestic aviation (which includes emissions from the UK Crown Dependencies, and excludes emissions from the Overseas Territories) were 2.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$), and for international aviation were 35.0 $MtCO_2$ in 2005. Greenhouse gas emissions from international flights do not currently count in the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory because there is no internationally agreed way in which to allocate those emissions. UK CO_2 emissions (excluding international aviation and shipping) were 554.2 $MtCO_2$ in 2005.

Emissions from domestic aviation were around 0.4 per cent. of total UK CO_2 emissions in 2005. If international aviation CO_2 emissions are included, aviation contributed around 6.4 per cent. of total UK CO_2 emissions in 2005. The proportion in 2030 and 2050 would be around 15 and 21 per cent. of UK CO_2 emissions (including international aviation) respectively. These are based on the assumptions of continued strong growth in aviation using central projections in 'Aviation and Global Warming' (2004), and the assumption of attainment of the 60 per cent. CO_2 emissions reduction target in the rest of the economy as outlined in the 2003 Energy White Paper.

Common Agricultural Policy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the £305 million claim on the reserve to cover provision for disallowance arising from Common Agricultural Policy schemes; and when he was informed of the amount of the claim required. [128048]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA Ministers and officials discuss a wide range of issues with their colleagues in the Treasury as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Energy: EC Law

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what further consultation his Department plans to undertake with stakeholders on the Energy Services Directive and its timetable for implementation. [128706]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA continues to make progress towards implementing the Energy End-Use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive by 17 May 2008. We have already consulted on aspects of the directive which impact on the wider public. The Department's consultation on billing and metering provisions ended on 6 February.

DEFRA expects to consult stakeholders further on our implementation plans in summer. We will also use the opportunity provided by the forthcoming energy White Paper, and June's energy efficiency action plan—itself a requirement of the directive—to keep stakeholders informed of progress.

Falcons: Conservation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he has taken of the examples of captive Eleanora's falcons appearing in the UK following the delisting in 1994 of the species from Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in his review of wild bird registration under section 7 of the Act. [126923]

Barry Gardiner: The public consultation exercise on Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 closed on 16 February 2007. Over the coming weeks we will consider the situation of both captive and wild population changes of all species delisted in 1994.

Flood Control

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Environment Agency's capital programme is for flood defence works in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08, broken down by region. [128236]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency's capital programme for flood defence works in 2006-07 and 2007-08, by region, are set out in the following tables.

Capital programme budget—flood defence grant in aid

Region	*2006-07 budget (£ million)*	*2007-08 budget (£)*
Anglian	53.9	—
Midlands	26.5	—
North East	21.4	—
North West	15.2	—
Southern	22.9	—
South West	20.9	—
Thames	23.6	—
Wales	14.8	—
Head Office	5.8	—
Total	205	[1]206.1

[1] The 2007-08 capital allocation by region is being finalised during the next two weeks. I will arrange for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Capital programme size—levy funding

Region	*2006-07 funding (£ million)*	*2007-08 funding (£ million)*
Anglian	9.8	4.7
Midlands	3.2	3.1
North East	2.2	2.5
North West	3.2	3.4
Southern	2.0	5.8
South West	5.5	2.1
Thames	5.3	10.0
Wales	0	0
Head Office	0	0
Total	31.2	31.6

Fuel Poverty

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people and *(b)* households in fuel poverty in each year since 1995; and what Government target on fuel poverty applied in each such year. [128113]

Ian Pearson: Fuel poverty is a factor of three elements—a home's energy efficiency, household income and the cost of fuel. As such, fuel poverty is measured by household and not by individual.

Fuel poverty figures were first calculated in 1996 and are based on information provided in the English House Condition Survey (EHCS). Fuel poverty figures in England from 1996 for each year a survey was completed are set out in the following table. The collation of the EHCS has a time lag so the latest available figures are for 2004.

	Number of households in fuel poverty in England	*Million Number of vulnerable households in fuel poverty in England*
1996	5.1	4.0
1998	3.4	2.8
2001	1.7	1.4
2002	1.4	1.2
2003	1.2	1.0
2004	1.2	1.0

A vulnerable fuel-poor household is defined as one containing an elderly person, a family with young children, a disabled person or someone suffering a long term illness.

The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 mandated the Government to produce a strategy and set targets to ensure that no household should live in fuel poverty. The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, published in November 2001, sets out the Government's targets for the eradication of fuel poverty in England:

to eradicate fuel poverty, as far as reasonably practicable, in vulnerable households by 2010

that no household will remain in fuel poverty, as far as reasonably practicable, by 2016

Similar targets exist in the devolved administrations.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many homes in the Peterborough constituency used the Warm Front scheme in each year since 2001. [128199]

Ian Pearson: In the first phase of the Warm Front Scheme, from June 2000 to June 2005, 2,562 households were assisted in the Peterborough constituency.

In the current phase of Warm Front, for Peterborough, 121 households were assisted between June 2005 and March 2006, and 404 households were assisted between April and December 2006.

Insulation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the average installation charge levied on householders for *(a)* cavity wall insulation and *(b)* full loft insulation was by councils participating in a British Gas council tax discount scheme for energy-saving measures; [128658]

(2) what the average payment made to householders participating in a British Gas council tax discount scheme for energy-saving measures was in 2005-06; and whether such payments *(a)* reflect the council tax banding of the property, *(b)* are one-off or repeated payments and *(c)* are paid by cheque or by council tax bill credit. [128662]

Ian Pearson: On the basis of the British Gas press release on 12 March, I understand that the average installation charge levied on householders participating in the British Gas council tax discount scheme for insulation measures is £250 for cavity wall insulation and £274 for full loft insulation.

The average payment to householders participating in the scheme for insulation measures across the 44 current participating local authorities in 2005-06 was between £50 and £100, averaging £61.

British Gas or the appropriate local authority can provide further information on the further details of the scheme.

Metals: Recycling

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to protect the trading interests of metal recycling companies from the requirements to disclose commercially confidential information under the revised Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations, to be introduced in July 2007. [127961]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* The revised EC Waste Shipments Regulation (EC No. 1013/2006) introduces certain requirements for shipments of 'Green List' waste for recovery (recycling). These include an obligation on anyone shipping such waste to complete certain information on a form (Annex VII to the Regulation), and to ensure that this information accompanies the waste from the start of the shipment until it reaches its destination. The information on the form includes details of the producer of the waste and the broker or dealer involved in the shipment, when these are involved. This information is passed on to the facility receiving the waste when the waste is delivered.

The UK has raised with the European Commission the issue of the potential commercial confidentiality of some of the information on the form. The Commission is currently working to establish whether it is possible, while ensuring compliance with the legal requirements of the revised EC Waste Shipments Regulation (WSR), for any of the information that should accompany shipments of 'Green List' waste to be withheld or partially withheld.

My officials are in contact with representatives of the metal recycling companies in the UK about this issue and will keep them informed of developments.

Pesticides

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the objectives are of the Pesticides Safety Directorate's voluntary pilot scheme underway in the Midlands on the disclosure of information on pesticides being sprayed; when it is expected to report; and if he will make a statement. [128416]

Barry Gardiner: The objective of this pilot study is to run a small scale trial of a system for public disclosure of farmers' spray records with a view to:

investigating the practicalities of handling 'third party' requests, including locating farms and identifying and contacting the individuals responsible for pesticide spraying in each case;

determining the probable level of public interest and hence establishing whether there is a significant need for Government to act in a 'third party' role if it is not feasible for members of the public to get this information directly from farmers;

determining the practical implications and estimating the likely cost of setting up and running a Government scheme on a national basis.

The study is expected to run from 1 March to 31 August 2007. There will then need to be a period of analysis which may include some follow-up survey work involving inquirers and farmers from the study area. Officials aim to report the outcome of the study to Ministers by the end of the year. Once Ministers have considered all the relevant information a decision will be made on the way forward and a public announcement will be made.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Safety

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what responsibilities for aircraft safety are under the remit of the Civil Aviation Authority. [128798]

Gillian Merron: The CAA's functions in relation to aircraft safety are the registration of aircraft, the safety of air navigation and aircraft (including airworthiness), the certification of operators of aircraft and the licensing of aircrews and aerodromes.

Car Sharing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many kilometres of high occupancy vehicle lanes have been built or designated since 1997. [125972]

Dr. Ladyman: A total of 4,715 lane kilometres of high occupancy vehicle lanes have been built or designated since 1997.

Departments: Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to his Department was of the Act on CO_2 website. [128591]

Gillian Merron: The cost of the design and production of the Department's Act On CO_2 micro-site was £110,270. The site is an integral part of the Act On CO_2 campaign and all the advertising directs consumers to the site.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on its revised website launched in February 2007. [128593]

Gillian Merron: The new DFT website was launched on 26 January this year. A new Content Management System has been implemented and the project costs are £1.5 million.

These costs include accessibility and usability testing; design of a new information architecture based on user feedback and testing; development of a new visual design; the design and build of the system; migration of content; and the purchase of an enterprise software licence. The enterprise software licence allows the Department to migrate other DFT sites to the same Content Management System without incurring further licence costs. This will help to reduce hosting and maintenance costs across the Department.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128766]

Gillian Merron: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Driving Offences: Cellular Phones

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* deaths, *(b)* serious incidents and *(c)* other accidents caused by persons driving while using hand-held mobile telephones in each police force area in 2006. [128889]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested for 2006 will be available in summer 2007.

Gatwick Airport: Safety

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to allow a fifth ground handler on the operation and safety of Gatwick Airport. [128800]

Gillian Merron: The responsibility for determining any limits on the number of companies permitted to provided ground handling services at a UK airport rests with the Civil Aviation Authority under the Airports (Groundhandling) Regulations 1997. The CAA's assessment of the impact of revoking the limit on the number of ground handling service providers at Gatwick airport is set out in the CAA Official Record Series 2, number 1786, which was published on 20 February 2007.

In-flight Refuelling: Safety

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the safety implications of increasing the amount of in-flight refuelling in the aviation industry. [129021]

Gillian Merron: In-flight refuelling is not undertaken within any UK public transport aircraft operation, and the Civil Aviation Authority is not aware of any such activity within the wider civil aviation community. The authority has not received any proposition for civil aircraft to engage in in-flight refuelling, and no safety assessment has been made.

Public Transport: Rural Areas

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on improving public transport in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [125973]

Gillian Merron: Local and central Government support for local bus services is now around £2½ billion a year. This total includes rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG) specifically to support rural bus services. Since RBSG's introduction in 1998, a total of over £440 million has now been allocated to authorities by means of this grant.

In addition, a total of £110 million has been awarded to authorities successful in rural bus challenge (RBC) competitions held from 1998 to 2003 to encourage innovative solutions to meeting rural transport needs. Many of the 300 projects initially supported by RBC funding are now continuing with mainstream funding from local authorities and other sources.

We have also changed the route registration rules to encourage flexibly routed, demand-responsive bus services and made these services eligible for bus service operators grant (BSOG) from the Department.

Our bus policy document 'Putting Passengers First', published in December, includes a range of proposals which we are now taking forward to improve bus and community transport services in rural and urban areas.

We have also implemented the community rail policy on many rural routes, particularly branch lines. In recent years, some lines have seen patronage increase by over 150 per cent. as community rail principles are implemented.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents resulting in *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injury for (i) drivers, (ii) passengers and (iii) pedestrians there were in each police authority in each of the last five years. [128920]

Dr. Ladyman: Tables showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents resulting in *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injury for (i) drivers/riders, (ii) passengers and (iii) pedestrians in Great Britain: 2001-05 (the latest year for which figures are available), broken down by police force, have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Tolls: Greater London

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* speeding fines, *(b)* London congestion charge fines and *(c)* parking fines were incurred by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each year since 1997; what the value was of fines incurred in each category; and if he will make a statement. [126915]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) has paid the following fines:

	Total parking fines (£)	*Congestion charge fines (£)*
1999-2000	2,610	n/a
2000-01	1,820	n/a
2001-02	2,760	n/a
2002-03	4,900	n/a
2003-04	7,570	n/a
2004-05	5,610	205.00
2005-06	7,470	350.00

n/a = Not applicable.

Figures prior to 1999 could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

The Agency has paid no speeding fines.

Parking restrictions within central London may make it impossible sometimes to deliver secure or sensitive documents to buildings or allow people with a high public profile to attend or leave buildings without putting themselves or secure documents at risk. In these cases, GCDA will pay the fine and recharge these costs to the customer as appropriate.

Tolls: Scotland

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on ensuring that Scottish stakeholders participate in discussions on a national system of road pricing. [128345]

Dr. Ladyman: Department for Transport officials and I are working very closely with the Scottish Executive as proposals for local road pricing schemes are being developed and as we take forward the debate on national road pricing.

The Secretary of State met the Scottish Minister for Transport in October to discuss road pricing, and they have exchanged correspondence since.

The Scottish Executive have a standing invitation to the Department's road pricing local liaison group through which we work with local authorities that are considering introducing local road pricing schemes.

Transport: Southern Region

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding the local transport authority in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk received (i) in total, (ii) per mile of road and (iii) per head of population in each year since 1997. [128015]

Gillian Merron: Tables 1 to 6 show the total local transport funding allocated to the aforementioned authorities for each year since 1997 (i) in total, (ii) per mile of road and (iii) per head of population.

Total local transport funding, as included in the tables, comprises

capital for the delivery of local transport plans (and for up to 1999-2000, the Transport Policies and Programmes submissions that preceded them), including for major local authority schemes, (which can vary substantially from year to year and between authorities);

specific grants to local authorities for bus services;

the Community Infrastructure Fund.

Bedfordshire

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total Funding (£000)	3,692	3,513	5,045	4,660	9,229	11,262	10,468	9,918	10,645	10,850
Funds per mile (£000)	2.17	2.07	2.97	2.74	5.43	6.62	6.15	5.83	6.26	6.38
Funds (£ per head)	6.41	6.10	8.76	8.09	16.02	19.55	18.17	17.21	18.47	18.83

Cambridgeshire

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total Funding (£000)	8,542	5,113	8,596	8,357	16,076	17,119	20,163	30,377	27,916	27110
Funds per mile (£000)	2.96	1.77	2.97	2.89	5.56	5.92	6.98	10.51	9.66	9.38
Funds (£ per head)	14.76	8.83	14.85	14.44	27.77	29.58	34.84	52.48	48.23	46.84

Essex

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total Funding (£000)	6,615	6,474	10,116	13,510	35,878	36,674	28,953	29,544	35,685	36,441
Funds per mile (£000)	1.31	1.28	2.00	2.67	7.09	7.25	5.72	5.84	7.05	7.20
Funds (£ per head)	4.97	4.87	7.60	10.15	26.97	27.57	21.76	22.21	26.82	27.39

Hertfordshire

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total Funding (£000)	6,550	5,035	7,382	10,837	23,237	26,705	24,564	41,035	36,120	28133
Funds per mile (£000)	2.16	1.66	2.44	3.58	7.67	8.82	8.11	13.55	11.92	9.29

Hertfordshire

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Funds (£ per head)	6.29	4.84	7.09	10.41	22.32	25.65	23.59	39.41	34.69	27.02

Norfolk

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total Funding (£000)	7,713	7,130	9,906	11,128	36,904	33,925	41,211	46,190	32,254	34,267
Funds per mile (£000)	1.24	1.14	1.59	1.79	5.92	5.44	6.61	7.41	5.17	5.50
Funds (£ per head)	9.45	8.73	12.13	13.63	45.20	41.55	50.47	56.57	39.50	41.97

Suffolk

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total Funding (£000)	4,939	5,838	6,756	9,914	22,688	21,975	22,760	31,333	34,717	38,261
Funds per mile (£000)	1.16	1.37	1.59	2.33	5.34	5.18	5.36	7.38	8.18	9.01
Funds (£ per head)	7.22	8.54	9.88	14.50	33.18	32.14	33.29	45.83	50.78	55.96

The Government also support local transport authorities through the general revenue support grant, and councils spend some of this support on highways and transport services according to their own priorities.

Transport: Transpennine Corridor

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the levels of *(a)* road transport and *(b)* rail transport in the Transpennine corridor. [125776]

Gillian Merron: The current levels of road traffic on the Transpennine routes at their busiest sections taken from the 2005 Traffic Monitoring-Data Analysis Report are:

M62 Junction 25 (Huddersfield) and J27 (Leeds)—134,500 Annual Average Daily Traffic flow (17 per cent. of which is heavy goods vehicles)

A66—15,000 AADT (28 per cent. HGV)

A69—47,000 AADT (24 per cent. HGV)

M67/A628/A616 (at M67 Jct 0-1)—52,100 AADT (13 per cent. HGV).

The current level of rail traffic between Manchester and Leeds, using Huddersfield as a central measurement point, is an average of 104 trains in each direction on any weekday. Capacity on the core Leeds-Manchester section of the north Transpennine route was stepped up in December 2004 from three trains per hour to four trains per hour.

The current level of rail traffic between Manchester and Sheffield, using Edale as a central measurement point, is an average of 44 trains in each direction on any weekday.

West Coast Railway Line

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce a decision on the procurement of extra carriages for the Pendolino trains operating on the West Coast Main Line; and if he will make a statement. [129039]

Mr. Tom Harris: Negotiations continue to take place with Virgin Trains and their partners over the provision of additional cars for the Pendolino trains. I cannot give any specific time scales at this stage.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to assist in the procurement of extra carriages for the Pendolino trains operating on the West Coast Main Line; and if he will make a statement. [129040]

Mr. Tom Harris: Officials from the Department for Transport are actively working with Virgin Trains and their partners over the commercial and operational issues relating to the provision of additional accommodation on the Pendolino trains.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Trooper Williams

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Solicitor-General what the cost was of the *(a)* defence teams, *(b)* prosecution teams and *(c)* other costs related to the prosecution of Trooper Williams for alleged crimes in Iraq in 2005. [129154]

The Solicitor-General: The total prosecution costs in this case were £28,195.24. I have been told by the Legal Services Commission that the total Crown court legal aid costs were £151,526. I am not aware of other costs. The costs of the investigation are not kept by my Department.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Budget and Revenues Sub-Group

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list attendees of the Budget and Revenues Sub-Group between February to July 2004. [127977]

Tessa Jowell: The Budgets and Revenue Sub-Group included representatives from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, HM Treasury, the Greater London Authority (GLA), London 2012 Ltd., Government Office for London, the London Development Agency and the British Olympic Association.

Casino Advisory Panel

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what evidence the Casino Advisory Panel received on the economic multiplier effect of situating a regional casino licence *(a)* in a large city and *(b)* elsewhere. [128464]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* In its call for proposals published on 31 January 2006, the Casino Advisory Panel asked all local authorities as part of their proposals to explain how and why they expected that the "multiplier effect" of the additional economic activity to be created by the proposal would outweigh the potential leakage of money from the local economy.

When relevant evidence was received it was taken into account by the panel and published on its website. The panel was also able to draw on its own extensive expertise in similar economic impact assessments.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make the transcripts of the evidence in public sessions held by the Casino Advisory Panel available to the public. [128821]

Mr. Caborn: Transcripts of the recordings made of all seven of the Casino Advisory Panel's examinations in public are currently being prepared, and will be published shortly.

Gambling: Finance

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has held with the Responsibility in Gambling Trust on industry funding and the implications for a statutory levy under section 123 of the Gambling Act 2005. [128748]

Mr. Caborn: My Department has met representatives of the gambling industry and the Responsibility in Gambling Trust on many occasions, and discussed industry contributions to problem gambling research, education and treatment. If more is needed, and not delivered by the industry, the Act has powers to impose a statutory levy. We will use those powers if necessary.

Gaming Clubs

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the differences are in *(a)* scale and *(b)* nature of operation between regional casinos, large casinos and small casinos under the 2005 legislation. [128847]

Mr. Caborn: The following table sets out the scale and nature of the operation of the three new categories of casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005.

	Type of casino		
	Small	*Medium*	*Large*
Minimum area (sq m)	750	1500	5000
Minimum number of gaming tables	1	1	40
Category of gaming machines permitted	Up to B1	Up to B1	Up to A
Maximum number of gaming machines	80	150	1250
Machine table ratio	2:1	5:1	25:1
Bingo permitted	no	yes	yes
Betting permitted	yes	yes	yes

Gaming Clubs: Licensing

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to publish the detail of her Department's consideration of *(a)* the Casino Advisory Panel's (CAP) report on the location of the new casinos and *(b)* the representations she has received about the CAP's recommendations. [128280]

Tessa Jowell: I made clear in my statement to the House on 30 January that I wanted to take time to consider the panel's report carefully. The outcome of this period of consideration is reflected in the draft order which I laid in the House on 1 March. I have concluded that the panel has taken its terms of reference seriously, has applied them in a balanced and consistent way and has tested its results back against the original terms of reference. I am satisfied that the panel has arrived at robust recommendations as a result.

As required by the Gambling Act 2005,I have consulted Scottish Ministers and the Welsh Assembly on the draft order, and they were content that the draft order should reflect the panel's recommendations in full.

On 20 February I met a delegation of Members and Peers who were sympathetic to Blackpool's proposal to the panel, and have received written representations from members of this group. The Department has also received around 270 letters from members of the public.

Leasehold

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on departmental fixed assets, what the length of any lease outstanding on those properties was. [125894]

Mr. Lammy: Pursuant to my answer to the hon. Member on 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on departmental fixed assets, the length of any lease outstanding on those properties at the point of sale was as follows:

	Years
30 Park Street	71
31 Park Street	71
32 Park Street	72

National Lottery: Grants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Big Lottery funding went to *(a)* statutory and *(b)* voluntary organisations in each year since the Big Lottery Fund's establishment; and how she expects the balance of funding for such organisations to be affected as a result of the 15 March 2007 decision to divert lottery funding to the London Olympics. [129156]

Mr. Caborn: The Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund were administratively merged on 1 June 2004 to create the Big Lottery Fund, which became a legal entity on 1 December 2006. Since 2004-05, the total annual Community Fund budget and approximately 40 per cent. of the New Opportunities Fund budget were allocated to the voluntary and community sector. From 2006-07, the Big Lottery Fund made a new undertaking to allocate 60-70 per cent. of its total budget to the voluntary and community sector. It will be reporting on its performance against this target in its annual report.

The Big Lottery Fund does not expect the balance of funding, on current commitments, between statutory and voluntary and community sector organisations to be affected following the statement by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 15 March 2007.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will break down by lottery distributor the money transferred from the Lottery to fund the Olympics. [129188]

Mr. Caborn: We will, subject to parliamentary approval, transfer £1,085 million from non-Olympic lottery proceeds to the Olympic funding package. Of this, approximately £638 million will be transferred from the Big Lottery Fund. The remainder will be shared between 11 of the other 12 non-Olympic lottery distributors in proportion to their fixed shares of income from the lottery. However, no transfer will be made from UK Sport.

The amounts to be transferred from each non-Olympic distributor to make up this amount, rounded to the nearest £0.1 million, are detailed in the following table.

In addition, £750 million will be raised from Olympic lottery products and the five sports lottery distributors will distribute a further £340 million to maximise the benefit to British sport of hosting the games.

	£ million
Arts Council England	112.5
UK Film Council	21.8
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	4.5
Scottish Arts Council	12.5
Scottish Screen	1.8
Arts Council of Wales	8.1
Big Lottery Fund	638.1
Heritage Lottery Fund	161.2
Sport England	99.9
Sports Council for Northern Ireland	4.1
SportScotland	13.1
Sports Council for Wales	7.3
UK Sport	0
Total	1,085

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the Government intends *(a)* to define and *(b)* to audit and report on the pledge that the voluntary sector will get the same level of resources from the Big Lottery Fund that it would otherwise have received. [129191]

Mr. Caborn: The Big Lottery Fund will monitor its undertaking that 60-70 per cent. of its funding up to 2009 will go to the Voluntary Sector Scheme (VCS). It will report on progress towards this undertaking in its annual report. Following wide consultation, the Big Lottery Fund uses the HM Treasury definition of the "third sector", which encompasses voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, mutuals and co-operatives in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In Wales it used the definition adopted by the VCS and the Welsh Assembly Government as part of the Voluntary Sector Scheme.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to audit the *(a)* tender and *(b)* construction phase of the Olympic build; and what further steps are planned. [126277]

Tessa Jowell: There is an established framework for internal auditing within the ODA. This covers all aspects of procurement from process to specific contract audits. The National Audit Office is also about to start its review, which will include the procurement process.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the adequacy of procedures in place to audit the *(a)* tender and *(b)* construction phase of the Olympics build. [126278]

Tessa Jowell: The ODA has a thorough internal audit system in place. The internal audit programme is reviewed monthly by the ODA's Audit Committee. Both the DCMS and the National Audit Office attend the Audit Committee as observers and are able to raise any matters of concern.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the Olympic Park is owned by or under the control of *(a)* the Love Lea Valley Park Authority, *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority, *(c)* the London Development Agency and *(d)* other public bodies. [126569]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* Ninety-three per cent. of the freehold of land required for the Olympic Park is now in public sector control.

This 93 per cent. represents approximately 290 hectares of the 312 hectares of land required for the development of the Olympic Park. The vast majority of this land is either owned by the LDA or controlled through a series of agreements with other public sector bodies such as the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. The 312 hectares also includes 87 hectares of land comprising the Stratford city development that is controlled by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

The remaining land required for the Olympic Park will be acquired through negotiation or using the LDA's approved compulsory purchase powers.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the date was of the Cabinet meeting at which the London 2012 Olympic Budget as it appeared in the London 2012 Candidate File was agreed. [128152]

Tessa Jowell: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet committees is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 99W, on Olympic Games: Greater London, what the date was of the meeting at which the London 2012 Olympic Budget was agreed by the Government; and who attended that meeting. [128153]

Tessa Jowell: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet committees, including when they meet, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will assess the feasibility of holding the Olympic shooting events at Southern Counties Shooting at Evershot. [128352]

Mr. Caborn: The Royal Artillery barracks at Woolwich were agreed as the venue for the shooting events after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) gave feedback to the London bid organisers on the venue portfolio submitted for London as an Applicant City in 2004. The Royal Artillery barracks are, therefore, part of the Host City Contract agreement with the IOC. There are currently no plans to move the Olympic shooting events to an alternative venue.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings her Department *(a)* had before and *(b)* has had since the Olympic Games 2012 budget was submitted to the International Olympic Committee with representatives of the Metropolitan Police on security (i) provision and (ii) costs; and whether HM Treasury representatives (A) were invited to and (B) attended such meetings. [128385]

Tessa Jowell: Before and after submission of the London 2012 bid, there have been various meetings involving representatives of my Department and the Metropolitan Police, both about the security planning and potential costs. Treasury representatives have been invited and involved where appropriate.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will estimate the cost of *(a)* demolishing and *(b)* rebuilding facilities for shooting sports for the 2012 Olympic games; and if she will make a statement. [128506]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 62W.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to ensure that the 2012 Olympic games leave a positive legacy for shooting sports in the UK. [128510]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are working hard with the London 2012 Organising Committee and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to ensure a lasting legacy for all Olympic sports, including shooting, for London and the UK as a whole. The ODA and the Organising Committee venues team are looking carefully at the post-games uses of all proposed facilities being developed for the shooting competitions at Woolwich.

The biggest legacy that we aim to achieve for shooting, working with the National Governing Body and International Federation, is for more people to have experienced the sport in person. Hosting the games in the UK gives us a unique opportunity to open up Olympic and Paralympic sports to new audiences and thus increase interest and participation in them.

Public Houses: Music

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research her Department has carried out relating to the provision of live music in pubs and clubs. [128328]

Mr. Woodward: In 2004, DCMS published a baseline survey of live music staged in England and Wales. This looked at premises, including pubs and clubs, where live music performances typically take place in addition to the main business of the establishment. This research is available in the Library of the House and on the DCMS website:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2004/livemusic_in_england_wales.htm>.

A follow-up to this survey will take place later this year.

Separate research, focusing on the experience of smaller establishments in applying for live music licences under the new licensing regime, was published in 2006. This is available in the Library of the House and on the DCMS website:

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/research_by_dcms/live_music_exec_summary.htm

In 2006, the DCMS also commissioned a study to look at the feasibility of investigating the economic impact of live music in local areas. The results will be published on the Department's website and will be placed in the Library of the House shortly.

In addition, the independent Live Music Forum has been monitoring the early effects of the Act on the live music sector. I look forward to receiving its report in the spring.

Public Libraries: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the Government plan to reduce the number of public library service standards that local authorities must report. [129239]

Mr. Lammy: The Public Library Service Standards are currently under review. Consideration of the number of indicators in the replacement model, which will have a discretionary base, continues. The new model will be in place by April 2008.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what basis cities were selected to host the UK School Games which she announced on 7 March 2007. [128368]

Mr. Caborn: The criteria issued by the Millennium Commission for applications from bidders wishing to host the UK School Games in 2007-11 were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses on 14 November.

This guidance specified that selection of the successful bids would be made by Ministers on the basis of those criteria and the recommendations of the assessors. Following the winding up of the Millennium Commission on 30 November 2006, its responsibilities were transferred to the Big Lottery Fund.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what powers are available to *(a)* Ofcom and *(b)* the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services to take action against broadcasters found to have misled the public over their use of premium-rate phone-in lines. [129116]

Mr. Woodward: Ofcom has a range of statutory sanctions that it may impose on broadcasters found in serious breach of its broadcasting code. Depending on the severity of the breach, these can include a direction to broadcast a summary of Ofcom's adjudication, a financial penalty and, in the most serious of cases, the shortening or revocation of a licence. ICSTIS also has a range of powers to take action against premium rate service (PRS) providers found in serious breach of the ICSTIS code. These include the power to fine PRS providers up to £250,000, barring access to individual services and banning named individuals from operating services for set periods.

Terrorism: Compensation

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is intended that the charitable fund to help British citizens affected by terrorism abroad will cover the spouses of British service personnel killed by terrorist action. [128815]

Tessa Jowell: Service personnel and their spouses currently receive compensation from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, which offers financial support for personnel who have been killed or injured in the line of duty. Spouses of those who died in service are also entitled to receive payments from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme.

The charitable fund is primarily intended to assist UK residents who are travelling overseas or on holiday. Applications would not normally be accepted from victims who are in an affected area as part of their employment and for whom assistance packages are already in place.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when further details will be announced concerning the charitable fund to help British citizens affected by terrorism abroad that was announced in the March 2006 budget. [128816]

Tessa Jowell: We will be announcing further details of the charitable fund for British victims of overseas terrorism shortly.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been allocated to the Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol campaign to be launched in May. [128217]

Mr. Coaker: Total funding available for allocation to the Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaign is £1.2 million. Police basic command units that intend to participate (in partnership with Trading Standards) must complete a bid form to be entitled to funding, payable on proof of completion of the operations undertaken.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what performance measures he plans to use to assess the Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol campaign. [128218]

Mr. Coaker: The Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol campaign is likely to result in the issuing of penalty notices for disorder and additionally licence

reviews and prosecutions for the illegal sale of alcohol to minors. Details of these will be recorded and analysed centrally. Informal qualitative feedback will also be considered. Test purchase failure rates will not be used as an overall generic indicator of performance, as the campaign specifically aims to target problem premises, selected at the discretion of local enforcement agencies. Local police commanders and partnerships will use the results of the activity to focus their efforts and resources on key local hot spots.

Antisocial Behaviour

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1351W, on anti-social behaviour; what criteria the Government plan to use to determine whether an area is eligible for respect zone funding. [128663]

(2) how much has been allocated to respect zones for 2006-07; and how much each participating Government Department contributed towards such funding. [128667]

Mr. Coaker: Respect Areas were confirmed on 22 January 2007. The only additional funding which is currently available in return for securing Respect Area status, is access to up to £125,000 from the Department for Education and Skills to help improve parenting programmes linked to tackling antisocial behaviour. This funding is available for 2007-08 only.

Respect Areas have been identified from a longer list of 77 areas with significant challenges, based on an index of data covering rates of deprivation, public perceptions of antisocial behaviour, teenage pregnancy, truancy and use of antisocial behaviour orders. The 40 Respect Areas have been identified as having a track record in taking action to tackle antisocial behaviour and have demonstrated a commitment and capacity to do more.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders occurred in 2006; and how many of these ended in custodial detention. [122462]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 February 2007]:* ASBO breach data are currently available up to 31 December 2005 only. Data for 2006 are expected to be available later this year.

Asylum

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number of failed asylum seekers *(a)* living in the UK and *(b)* who were living in the UK in each of the last five years. [124070]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 28 February 2007]:* As the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time was between final refusal and deportation for asylum seekers who exhausted all avenues of appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [110846]

Mr. Byrne: Since the abolition of embarkation controls in 1994 we cannot assess with any certainty the numbers of people who remain in the UK. In this context it is very difficult to provide an accurate average time it may take to remove those who have no right to remain here.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers his Department has recorded as missing from their last registered address in each of the last five years. [111220]

Mr. Byrne: The information could be provided only by individual examination of case records and the cost of obtaining it would therefore be disproportionate.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries failed asylum seekers were returned in 2006; and how many were returned in each case. [124854]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows provisional figures rounded to the nearest five of persons who had claimed asylum at some stage who were removed from the United Kingdom in 2006, by destination.

Information on asylum removals, including and excluding dependants, is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Removals and voluntary departures[1] of asylum applicants, by destination, 2006[2,3]

		Of whom:	
Destination[4]	*Total asylum seekers removed*	*Principle asylum applicants*	*Dependants of asylum applicants*
Albania	1,345	1,250	95
Macedonia	25	20	5
Moldova	55	45	5
Romania	380	245	135
Russia	110	75	35
Serbia and Montenegro	855	770	85
Turkey	1,695	1,590	105
Ukraine	105	90	20
EU Accession States	175	165	10

Removals and voluntary departures[1] of asylum applicants, by destination, 2006[2,3]

Destination[4]	Total asylum seekers removed	Of whom: Principle asylum applicants	Of whom: Dependants of asylum applicants
Other Former USSR	220	175	45
Europe other	2,035	1,885	150
Europe total	7,005	6,310	690
Colombia	210	170	40
Ecuador	100	70	30
Jamaica	430	365	65
Americas other	200	145	55
Americas total	940	750	190
Algeria	300	210	90
Angola	125	95	30
Burundi	10	5	*
Cameroon	45	40	*
Congo	65	60	10
Democratic Republic of Congo	115	105	10
Eritrea	*	*	.
Ethiopia	85	80	5
Gambia	70	70	*
Ghana	170	155	15
Ivory Coast	35	30	5
Kenya	135	120	15
Liberia	20	15	5
Nigeria	690	635	55
Rwanda	15	15	*
Sierra Leone	90	90	5
Somalia	45	40	5
Sudan	75	75	*
Tanzania	60	50	10
Uganda	230	220	15
Zimbabwe	270	220	50
Africa other	325	265	60
Africa total	2,980	2,590	385
Iran	475	420	55
Iraq	1,775	1,725	50
Libya	45	35	15
Syria	55	40	15
Middle East other	330	250	80
Middle East total	2,680	2,470	210
Afghanistan	970	965	5
Bangladesh	250	240	10
China	270	270	5
India	550	510	40
Pakistan	1,190	870	320
Sri Lanka	695	655	40
Vietnam	140	130	10
Asia other	475	410	65
Asia total	4,540	4,045	495

Removals and voluntary departures[1] of asylum applicants, by destination, 2006[2,3]

Destination[4]	Total asylum seekers removed	Of whom: Principle asylum applicants	Of whom: Dependants of asylum applicants
Nationality not known/other	90	80	10
Grand total	18,235	16,250	1,985

[1] Includes persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return Programme run by the International Organisation for Migration, and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 with * = 1 or 2. Data may not sum due to rounding.
[3] Provisional figures
[4] Destination data as recorded on source database.

Azal Mohammed Ibrahim

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to deport Mr. Azal Mohammed Ibrahim, an Iraqi Kurd convicted of causing the death of a child by careless driving. [125472]

Mr. Byrne: I am not able to comment publicly on individual cases within the House.

British Nationality

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people living in the United Kingdom were not UK citizens in each of the last five years. [124069]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 28 February 2007]:* The requested information is not available.

However, the labour force survey has been used to estimate take-up rates of British citizenship and these entail some estimates of the number of non-British citizens in the UK; these are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2005", which may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Burglary: Drugs

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were convicted of *(a)* domestic burglary and *(b)* drug offences in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1997; [126303]

(2) how many people were convicted of serious violent crime offences in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997; [126310]

(3) how many people were convicted of violent crime offences in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [126315]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform

for the number of people convicted at all courts of burglary, drug, and violent crime offences in South Tyneside, the north-east and England and Wales, 2001 to 2005 can be found in the table.

From the court proceedings database it is not possible to identify those offenders in the Jarrow constituency, as the data are not collected at this level of detail.

Number of persons convicted in the North East region for certain offence types, 1997 to 2005[1, 2]

	North East								
Offence type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Violent crime[3]	2,929	3,145	3,104	2,885	2,993	3,109	2,968	2,908	3,107
Serious violent crime[4]	830	817	734	562	500	557	534	491	472
Burglary in a dwelling and aggravated burglary in a dwelling[5]	1,474	1,423	1,307	1,004	1,091	1,206	1,007	790	776
Drug offences	1,526	2,194	2,528	2,773	3,340	3,624	3,816	2,687	2,759
Total	6,759	7,579	7,673	7,224	7,924	8,496	8,325	6,876	7,114

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Violent crime includes violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.
[4] Serious violent crime includes: murder, attempted murder, threat or conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, infanticide, causing death by dangerous driving, manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, causing death by dangerous driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, wounding or other act endangering life, and endangering railway passengers.
[5] Domestic burglary: burglary in a dwelling and aggravated burglary in a dwelling (including attempts).
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Number of persons convicted in England and Wales for certain offence types, 1997 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	England and Wales								
Offence type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Violent crime[4]	44,674	47,159	45,630	45,104	46,163	49,803	49,694	51,415	52,820
Serious violent crime[5]	8771	8271	7729	7138	7178	7566	7013	6911	6510
Burglary in a dwelling and aggravated burglary in a dwelling[6]	17,870	17,306	16,387	14,471	13,684	14,622	14,540	13,503	12,820
Drug offences	40,666	48,821	48,711	44,621	45,621	49,036	51,162	39,197	39,090
Total	111,981	121,557	118157	111,334	112,646	121,027	122,409	111,026	111,240

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.
[4] Violent crime includes violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.
[5] Serious violent crime includes: murder, attempted murder, threat or conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, infanticide, causing death by dangerous driving, manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, causing death by dangerous driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, wounding or other act endangering life, and endangering railway passengers.
[6] Domestic burglary: burglary in a dwelling and aggravated burglary in a dwelling (including attempts).
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Departments: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many independent bodies existed to hear appeals on decisions made by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many there have been in 2006-07 to date. [121666]

Mr. Byrne: The following independent bodies existed to hear appeals on decisions made by the Home Office or its executive agencies:

(a) in 1997-98, four:

(i) immigration adjudicators under the Immigration Appeals Act 1969

(ii) the Immigration Appeals Tribunal under the Immigration Appeals Act 1969

(iii) the Policy and Advisory Board for Forensic Pathology in relation to disciplinary proceedings against forensic pathologists on the Home Office register

(iv) persons appointed to hear representations against proposed decisions in relation to licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

(b) in 2001-02, eight:

(i)-(iv) the four bodies mentioned above

(v) the Special Immigration Appeals Commission under the Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997

(vi) Asylum Support Adjudicators under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

(vii) the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission under the Terrorism Act 2000

(viii) the Pathogens Access Appeal Commission, set up under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001

(c) in 2005-06, seven:

(i) the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004

(ii) the Appeals Panel of the Home Office Forensic Pathology Council

(iii)-(vii) the five bodies mentioned at (iv) to (viii) above

(d) in 2006-07, the seven bodies mentioned under *(c)* above.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff awarded special bonus scheme bonuses since 2003-04 worked on *(a)* foreign prisoner release, *(b)* prison building, *(c)* updating data from foreign police records, *(d)* identity card assessments, *(e)* the sex offenders' register and *(f)* police force mergers. [121397]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was between *(a)* tribunal rejection of applications to remain by asylum seekers and *(b)* rejection of human rights appeals and deportation or departure. [118291]

Mr. Byrne: Since the abolition of embarkation controls in 1994 we cannot assess with any certainty the numbers of people who remain in the UK. In this context it is very difficult to provide an accurate average time it may take to remove those who have no right to remain here.

Entry Clearances

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when George Barango, Ref: B4016!0, a constituent of the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, will receive a notice of decision on his application made on 8 October 1999. [124764]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to my hon. Friend on 6 March 2007 with the information requested.

Fraud: Internet

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the procedure is for reporting cases of suspected fraudulent sales on the internet; how many investigations have taken place into allegations of such fraud; how many prosecutions in which all proceedings are complete have taken place; and what the outcome was of such prosecutions. [128733]

Mr. Coaker: The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) govern the recording of crime in England and Wales. These are publicly available documents and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

The police deal with reports of incidents in accordance with the General Principles of NCRS which state:

"All reports of incidents, whether from victims, witnesses or third parties and whether crime related or not, will result in the registration of an incident report by police".

Following the initial registration, an incident will be recorded as a crime (Notifiable offence) if, on the balance of probability:

(a) the circumstances as reported amount to a crime defined by law (the police will determine this, based on their knowledge of the law and counting rules), and *(b)* there is no credible evidence to the contrary.

Once recorded, a crime would remain recorded unless there was additional verifiable information to disprove that a crime had occurred."

The Counting Rules also include specific instructions that relate to the recording of crime in connection with goods ordered over the internet which are as follows:

Location of crime: Goods ordered over the internet:

If goods ordered over the internet (or by phone, mail etc.) do not arrive due to a fraudulent operation, then the following rules apply in order of priority:

If the location of the suspect(s) is either unknown or outside England and Wales, then the crime should be recorded in the force/BCD in whose area the victim is located when they place the order.

If the location of the suspect(s) becomes known and is within England and Wales, then record in the force/BCU area covering that location.

If payment is made electronically then the venue will be the address of the account holder into which the money is transferred or if no address then the address of the bank, provided this is not at headquarters or the site of a computer server.

With regard to the number of investigations, prosecutions and outcomes of frauds directly relating to the internet, this information is not available centrally.

Immigrants: Somalia

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Somali nationals have been returned to Somalia from the UK over the last two years, broken down by *(a)* those who voluntarily returned to Somalia and *(b)* those who were forcibly removed to Somalia; [119890]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of Somali nationals in the UK who do not have leave to remain. [119891]

Mr. Byrne: No estimate has been made regarding the number of Somali nationals in the UK who have no leave to remain. As the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case.

The following table shows the number of Somali nationals removed from the UK in 2004 and 2005, broken down by type of applicant and type of removal.

The information provided comes from published statistics. Information on removals in 2006 will be published in the summer on the Home Office's research development and statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1, 2] of Somalia to Somalia, 2004-05[3, 4]

			Number of persons
	2004	*2005*	*Total*
Total persons removed[1, 2]	30	20	55
Of whom:			
Principal asylum applicants[5]	25	15	40
Dependants of asylum applicants	5	5	15
Non-asylum cases	*	—	*
Persons removed and voluntary departures[6, 7]	15	5	20
Of whom:			
Principal asylum applicants[5]	10	5	15
Dependants of asylum applicants	*	—	*
Non-asylum cases	*	—	*
Persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes[8]	15	15	35
Of whom:			
Principal asylum applicants[9]	10	10	20
Dependants of asylum applicants	5	5	10
Non-asylum cases[9]	—	—	—

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and in 2005 those who it is established have left the UK without informing authorities.
[2] Includes cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five, with — = 0, * = 1 or 2, and may not sum due to rounding.
[4] Provisional figures.
[5] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, excluding dependants.
[6] Includes persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them and in 2005 those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[7] Excludes assisted voluntary returns.
[8] Persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.
[9] Persons leaving under the assisted voluntary return for irregular migrants programme run by the International Organisation for Migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated. Removals under this scheme began in December 2004.

Immigration

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers are stationed permanently at the port of Holyhead. [125902]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* All ferry services to Holyhead are from within the Common Travel Area. Controls are operated on an intelligence-led basis.

Immigration Detention

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many days between 10 December 2006 and 10 January 2007 the male immigration detention estate in London was unable to admit new entrants; and if he will make a statement. [116163]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that during the period from 10 December 2006 to 10 January 2007, admission has been possible within the London male immigration detention estate. Harmondsworth, Colnbrook and Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centres).

Passports: Interviews

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the speech of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department in the Adjournment debate of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 131-4, on passport interview centres, what consultations he has undertaken with stakeholders from *(a)* Somerset and *(b)* Taunton in deciding the location of remote interview facilities for passport application interviews. [128871]

Joan Ryan: Consultation on the proposed location of passport remote interview facilities in sparsely populated parts of the UK, as defined by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), was undertaken with local and regional bodies in those areas. Somerset is not defined as a sparsely populated area in this context.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the speech of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department in the Adjournment debate of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 131-4, on passport interview centres, when the interview centres in *(a)* Barnstaple, *(b)* Bristol, *(c)* Exeter and *(d)* Yeovil will be fully operational; and for how many days per week each will be open. [128872]

Joan Ryan: The requirement to attend an interview will be introduced gradually, starting with interviews in a limited number of interview offices in the next few months, with further offices being added progressively through to the end of 2007.

The number of days per week each interview office will open are:

Interview centre	*Number of days*
(a) Barnstable	2
(b) Bristol	5
(c) Exeter	3
(d) Yeovil	3

Police: Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by the police force in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, (e) Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk was to respond to inquiries from the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) as part of routine CRB checks in each year since 1997. [127870]

Joan Ryan: The following table illustrates the average number of days taken by the police forces in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)*

Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk to conduct checks against their local intelligence systems between the launch of the CRB disclosure service on 11 March 2002 and the end of February 2007.

Average turnaround times

	Financial year				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Bedfordshire	2.1	1.9	4.9	2.5	3.7
Cambridgeshire	14.1	13.0	18.9	16.2	18.6
Essex	9.6	12.0	20.4	8.5	14.3
Hertfordshire	5.0	5.2	14.9	13.8	14.4
Norfolk	3.5	7.1	8.0	18.5	29.8
Suffolk	14.8	11.8	12.3	14.4	11.2

A revised service level agreement (SLA) came into effect in April 2006 between the CRB and the 43 police forces of England and Wales. This new agreement, which was agreed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) places an additional focus on delivery and the responsibility of Chief Officers and ACPO to ensure that the obligations within the SLA are met. Monthly performance figures since April 2006 are now published on the CRB website at:

www.crb.gov.uk

Robbery: Cash Dispensing

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were attacked while replenishing cash machines in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [128235]

Mr. Coaker: These statistics are not collected centrally.

The Government recognise the seriousness of Cash and Valuables in Transit (CVIT) robbery and the impact these attacks have on both victims and witnesses. We are therefore working with stakeholders to establish a Government and cross-industry response to the problem.

Sherhan Yildrim

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the circumstances were of the release from prison of Mr. Sherhan Yildrim. [123684]

Mr. Byrne: I am not able to comment on individual cases within the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Businesses: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the (i) Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 and (ii) Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 to (A) businesses and (B) the regulators. [126646]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows.

(i) The total costs of implementing the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 in the first year were estimated to be between £117.0 million and £202.6 million. Costs were estimated, in present value terms, to be between £477.6 million and £676.3 million over the first 10 years. Costs were estimated to be £1.13 billion to £1.94 billion over 40 years, in present value terms[1].

The additional costs to health and safety regulators were not considered to be substantial. There were pre-existing regulations, implemented in 1989, and ensuring compliance with the new requirements would be subsumed into current inspection activities.

(ii) The first year costs of implementing the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 were estimated to be between £201 million and £358 million. Over the first 10 years, total costs were estimated, in present value terms, to be between £2,377 million and £4,300 million.

The initial costs to regulators were estimated to be around £65,000 for training inspectors (mainly HSE) and around £300,000 for conducting research into whole-body vibration exposures to assist industry by producing generic risk assessments for machines expected to cause higher exposures[2].

Enforcing the regulations is unlikely to increase costs because enforcement action will be absorbed as part of the full range of inspection duties carried out by inspectors.

The information in this reply was drawn from the final regulatory impact assessment for the legislation that is available in the Library or on the HSE website at

http://www.hse.gov.uk/ria/index.htm.

The Government and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are committed to meeting the Better Regulation challenge. The HSE is constantly reviewing what can be done better to ensure that people are protected at work while avoiding unnecessary burdens on business.

[1] All costs are calculated in 2000-01 prices.

[2] All costs are calculated in 2001-02 prices.

Carers: Learning Disability

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what Government-funded support is available for carers of people with profound and multiple learning difficulties. [127939]

Mrs. McGuire: Depending on their personal circumstances, carers have access to the full range of social security benefits, including carer's allowance. To qualify for carer's allowance, carers must satisfy a number of eligibility conditions, and the person for whom they provide care has to be receiving either the middle or highest rate care component of the disability living allowance, or attendance allowance.

Departmental Websites

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many user visits were recorded on the National Pensions Debate website in each month in 2006. [118771]

James Purnell: Activity throughout the national pension debate site from January 2006 to May 2006 resulted in 56,648 visits and 23,888 unique visitors.

Activity throughout the pension reform site from June to December 2006 resulted in 187,787 visits and 69,215 unique visitors.

The site received the following visits and unique visitors in each month in 2006.

Activity	*Period*	*Visits*	*Unique visitors*
www.dwp.gov.uk/pensionsreform/debate/[1]	January 2006	6,251	3,077
	February 2006	7,508	3,658
	March 2006	21,632	9,606
	April 2006	8,456	3,763
	May 2006	12,801	6,903
www.dwp.gov.uk/pensionsreform[2]	June 2006	22,675	11,017
	July 2006	17,104	7,588
	August 2006	21,779	9,042
	September 2006	29,418	14,528
	October 2006	30,516	13,906
	November 2006	33,032	14,537
	December 2006	33,263	12,906

[1] The content of the national pensions debate site was restructured in June 2006. Background information was retained but main information was absorbed into the pension reform site.
[2] To reflect change in site structure figures provided from June 2006, show visits to the pensions reform site.
Notes:
Visits—Number of times a visitor or visitors came to the site. Each visit is recorded separately for every visit more than thirty minutes apart.
Unique Visitors—Individuals who visited your site during the report period. If someone visits more than once, they are counted only the first time they visit

Departments: Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1216W, on renewable energy, what plans he has to increase the amount of energy from renewable sources used by his Department. [127120]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions currently sources 53.5 per cent. of its total electricity from renewable sources. This is in excess of the original Government target to source 10 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources by 31 March 2008, which remains mandated within the new targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate.

The Department's estate partner Land Securities Trillium is required to source electricity using competitive tender. Bids are sought on the basis of maintaining current supplies for the Department, which ensures that the Department maintains its own performance while not compromising the ability of the market to supply to others.

In order to increase the volume of renewable energy available, the Department in partnership with Land Securities Trillium is exploring the potential for on-site renewable generation. There are a number of projects where this may be feasible and scoping work is under way. The Department's annual Sustainable Development reports will provide details of progress.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128764]

Mrs. McGuire: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meeting.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work permits were applied for by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [127709]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not collated in this Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost to public funds of removing the age cut-off from eligibility for mobility allowance; and if he will make a statement. [128017]

Mrs. McGuire: The requested information is not available. Entitlement to the mobility component of disability living allowance can only be established when a claim is made and the actual mobility needs of the individual are assessed. There are no reliable data available on which estimates could be made of extending entitlement to the mobility component of disability living allowance beyond the age of 65 if people were to make a claim.

Financial Assistance Scheme: EC Law

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals have been excluded from the Financial Assistance Scheme on the basis of their age; what assessment his Department's legal advisers have made of the extent to which this policy complies with European Union law; and if he will make a statement. [121446]

James Purnell: We estimate that around 50-55,000 members are more than 15 years from scheme pension age and therefore do not qualify for assistance.

We consider that European Directive 2000/78, which includes non-discrimination on grounds of age, does not apply to FAS.

The Government are carefully studying the ruling by the European Court of Justice of 25 January 2007

relating to Article 8 of the European Directive 80/987/EEC, and in so doing we will have in mind compliance with community law generally.

Full Employment Agency: Costs

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* annual running costs of the new Full Employment Agency in Scotland. [120312]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Full Employment Agency is a matter which we are discussing with the Scottish Executive. No estimate has been made by the Department for Work and Pensions of the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* annual running costs for the proposed Agency at this stage.

Industrial Health and Safety: Asbestos

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125590]

Mrs. McGuire: The answer is as follows:

(i) The cost to business, in present value terms, of complying with the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 was estimated to be some £1.4 billion in the first year. Recurring costs were estimated to be in the region of £13 million a year over 50 years.

These figures should be balanced against the estimated £3 billion benefits of the regulations. These arise from reducing the risks from asbestos and so preventing an estimated 4,700 asbestos related deaths over 50 years.

(ii) Combining the costs to HSE and local authorities of enforcing the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002, the cost in the first year in which the regulations came into force was estimated to be in the region of £8 million in present value terms. Over a 10-year period, enforcement costs were estimated at £34 million. The information in this reply was drawn from the final Regulatory Impact Assessment for the legislation that is available in the Library or on the HSE website at: http://www.hse.gov.uk/ria/index.htm.

The Government and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are committed to meeting the Better Regulation challenge. The HSE is constantly reviewing what can be done better to ensure that the right balance is struck between protecting people at work and avoiding unnecessary burdens on business.

Industrial Health and Safety: Hazardous Substances

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125588]

Mrs. McGuire: The cost to business of implementing the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 was estimated to be £350 million over a 10-year period, of which £150 million was initial costs.

Costs, over the same period, to the health and safety regulators were estimated to be in the region of £6.62 million, of which £75,000 were initial costs.

These figures should be considered against the total losses associated with incidents involving dangerous substances.

The Government and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are committed to meeting the Better Regulation challenge. The HSE is constantly reviewing what can be done better to ensure that people are protected at work whilst avoiding unnecessary burdens on business.

National Insurance: Jobcentres

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria were used to decide which jobcentres will offer interviews for applicants for national insurance numbers; and for what reason some jobcentres cannot conduct such interviews; [123407]

(2) what his policy is on the maximum *(a)* time and *(b)* distance that applicants for a national insurance number are expected to travel in order to attend an interview at a jobcentre. [123409]

Mr. Pinskitt: Customers wishing to obtain a new national insurance number are required to attend an interview. The jobcentres providing these services were selected on the basis of historical information on where the largest volumes of applications were made, also taking into account the suitability of premises available. Not all jobcentres have suitable premises to conduct these interviews or have had sufficient demand in the past for this specialist service.

Our policy on travelling time and distance is that a customer should be offered an appointment at the nearest location to their requested postcode (place of abode or place of work). In practice Jobcentre Plus specifically advises the customer if the interview is likely to be more than one hour travelling time each way, or if they are likely to be absent from home for over four hours. To assist the customer in these instances, Jobcentre Plus can offer special interview arrangements at a more suitable Jobcentre Plus site. Customers have the option, and some do choose, to travel for longer than one hour to attend an interview. Travelling time rather than distance is the measure on which the suitability of the appointment is determined as this takes into account local transport arrangements. Jobcentre Plus does have a facility to carry out home visits if customers have mobility problems.

New Deal

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of individuals participating in the new deal for young people are participating in the programme for the *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third time. [102157]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

Participants on new deal for young people

	Totals	Percentage of total
Participants as at August 2006	97,360	100
Of which:		
Participating for the first time	62,630	64
Participating for the second time	22,440	23
Participating for the third time	8,770	9

Notes:
1. Latest participant data is to August 2006.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Parliamentary Questions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many written parliamentary questions to his Department *(a)* in the 2005-06 session were and *(b)* so far this session have been colour-coded (i) red, (ii) amber/yellow and (iii) green since the introduction of the colour coding system; [113303]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of internal department guidance on the system of colour-coding for management of written parliamentary questions in operation in his Department. [113304]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department aims to answer parliamentary questions within the timescales set by Parliament. For the early part of the 2006-07 session, the Department trialled an informal system of colour-coding parliamentary questions to help improve internal processes for answering parliamentary questions. No formal guidance was issued on the operation of the system, nor was any information systematically collected on the number of questions colour-coded as a result. The Department has subsequently decided to discontinue the trial.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* individuals over the state pension age and *(b)* households with at least one member over the state pension age who would be eligible for an income-related benefit in (i) 2012, (ii) 2015, (iii) 2020, (iv) 2030, (v) 2040 and (vi) 2050 if the earnings link were restored to the basic state pension in (A) 2012 and (B) 2015. [122387]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available. Projections of entitlement for pension credit under the proposed reforms to state pensions are given in the following tables.

The Government have given a commitment to re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament.

The proposed reforms to the state pension system will encourage individual personal responsibility for retirement and provide a solid foundation on which people can save. These reforms will mean that those with a good history of working or caring and saving towards retirement will be taken clear of entitlement to the pension credit standard minimum guarantee, while continuing to provide a safety net for those who have been unable to build up a sufficient state or private pension.

(a) Individuals over state pension age entitled to pension credit

Projections of pension credit entitlement

	With earnings link restored from 2012		With earnings link restored from 2015	
	Individuals entitled (Million)	Percentage of total	Individuals entitled (Million)	Percentage of total
2012	5.1	44	5.1	45
2015	5.1	42	5.2	44
2020	4.7	38	4.9	40
2030	4.2	32	4.5	34
2040	3.8	27	4.0	29
2050	3.0	23	3.3	25

(b) Households with at least one member over state pension age entitled to pension credit

	With earnings link restored from 2012		With earnings link restored from 2015	
	Households entitled (Million)	Percentage of total	Households entitled (Million)	Percentage of total
2012	4.5	45	4.5	46
2015	4.5	45	4.6	46
2020	4.1	41	4.3	43
2030	3.9	36	4.1	37
2040	3.7	32	3.9	33
2050	3.0	28	3.3	30

Notes:
1. Projections incorporate the reforms to state pensions included in the Pensions Bill and are consistent with projections included in the Regulatory Impact Assessment to the Bill.
2. The projections do not include the impact of personal accounts.
3. Robust projections of combined entitlement to pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit are not available.
4. Care should be taken when interpreting these projections as they are subject to a margin of uncertainty. The projections are based on long run simulations of the incomes of individuals under a set of assumptions including life expectancy, partnership formation, earnings growth, employment rates, state and private pension accumulation.

Source:
DWP projections

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what processes his Department carries out to stop payment of basic state pension on the death of a claimant; and if he will make a statement. [118800]

James Purnell: Upon receipt of a notification of the death of a customer, the information is recorded on the relevant computer system, and payments of state pension are stopped with immediate effect.

Notifications are typically provided by next of kin or close relatives, by telephone or post. Checks are made to establish the identity of the deceased customer, and

when notification is received by phone, verification of customer's identity is obtained through a series of security questions.

The Office for National Statistics provides us with a weekly summary of notifications of death made direct to the DWP from registrars.

From the autumn of 2007, notifications of death will be received on a daily basis from the Office for National Statistics, as opposed to the current weekly basis. This will assist in enabling a prompt cessation of payment following death.

Pensions Education Fund

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the expected total allocation is of funds on Pensions Education Fund contracts; [125531]

(2) how much each of the 26 contracted awards from the Pensions Education Fund has cost; [125470]

(3) with whom further Pensions Education Fund contracts have been agreed since the initial 26 were awarded. [125479]

James Purnell: The total expected allocation of funds to the 26 organisations that made successful applications to the Pensions Education Fund is £5,137,961.

The value of each of the 26 contracts awarded by the Pensions Education Fund is contained in the following table.

Contracted organisation	Fund contract value (£)
Age Concern Birmingham	225,196
Age Concern Camden	164,439
Age Concern Ealing	248,361
Age Concern England	250,019
British Chambers of Commerce	249,981
Campaign for Learning	244,161
Community The Union for Life	197,772
Council for Voluntary Service (Northampton)	201,510
GFTU	237,900
Golden Gates Housing	165,523
Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council	199,350
Life Academy	56,340
NAPF	234,640
NIACE	247,476
North Liverpool Citizens Advice Bureaux	244,562
Pakistan Pendle Welfare Association	98,510
PRIME	250,864
QED-UK	249,931
Royal BeD and West of England Society	74,537
Royal National Institute of the Blind	124,323
SAFE-Toynbee Hall	245,480
Sahara Communities Abroad	250,000
Scottish Transport Credit Union	194,915
Trades Union Congress	245,116
USDAW	118,727
WEETU (Womens Employment, Education and Training Unit)	121,126
Total	5,137,961.00

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest pound
No further contracts have been agreed since the initial award of 26 contracts.

Rented Housing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number and *(b)* the proportion of households renting from (i) local authorities, (ii) registered social landlords, (iii) private landlords and (iv) owner occupiers which are (A) over state pension age and (B) of working age. [126504]

James Purnell: The information is in the tables.

The following estimates have been published from the Family Resources Survey: United Kingdom 2004-05.

	Percentage of households	
Tenure	Households with one or more adults over pension age	Households with all adults of working age
Rented from:		
Council	13	10
Housing Association	9	7
Rented privately	5	14
Owner occupiers	74	69
Sample size (=100 per cent.)	9,302	18,739

	Number of households (Thousand)	
Tenure	Households with one or more adults over pension age	Households with all adults of working age
Rented from:		
Council	1,010	1,730
Housing Association	690	1,250
Rented privately	370	2,370
Owner occupiers	5,810	12,050
All	7,880	17,390

Notes:
1. Working age is defined as 16-59 for women and 16-64 for men.
2. 'Council' includes local authority, new town and NIHE rented accommodation.
3. 'Housing Associations' includes co-operative and trust rented accommodation.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government office region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
5. Figures for the number of households have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Social Security Benefits: Carers

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of carers working more than 35 hours per

week in the UK and *(b)* the percentage of carers claiming (i) the carer's allowance, (ii) income support, (iii) jobseeker's allowance and (iv) the carer's premium. [127559]

Mrs. McGuire: It is estimated that there are approximately 1.08 million informal carers in Great Britain who provide care for more than 35 hours per week.[1]

Approximately 8 per cent. of the estimated total of 5.7 million informal carers are receiving carer's allowance, 4 per cent. are receiving the carer premium in income support, and 0.1 per cent. are receiving the carer premium in income-based jobseeker's allowance.[2]

[1] *Source:*

Family Resources Survey 2004-05. It should be noted that the Family Resources Survey generates a lower estimate of the total number of carers than the Census, which is used to answer the second part of this Question. In consequence, the answers to the separate parts of the Question are not directly comparable.

[2] *Source:*

Census 2001 and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, August 2006.

Figures shown are for Great Britain, not the UK, as the benefits discussed are payable in Great Britain. There are overlaps between those in receipt of carer's allowance and the other premiums.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* severe disablement allowance and *(c)* income support for incapacity are undertaking permitted work. [127817]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants undertaking permitted work in Great Britain: as at August 2006

		Benefit combination			
Permitted work type	*All*	*IB and IS*	*IB only*	*SDA and IS*	*SDA only*
Permitted Work Lower Level	19,500	5,700	10,400	2,800	500
Supported Permitted Work	12,800	2,800	5,700	3,300	1,000
Permitted Work Higher Limit	14,100	2,500	11,200	200	300
Permitted Work Higher Limit—Supported	400	0	300	0	0

Notes:

1. Figures have been produced using the 5 per cent. data and have been rated up proportionally using the Great Britain WPLS 100 per cent. IB/SDA totals.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether his Department collects data for tax benefit model tables on the marginal rate of deductions for disabled people; [127910]

(2) if he will place in the Library the tax benefit model tables on the marginal rate of deductions for disabled people for the latest period for which figures are available. [127911]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Data on claimants of disability living allowance and attendance allowance are collected but not used to calculate marginal deduction rates for inclusion in the tax benefit model tables.

Social Security Benefits: Immigrants

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefit entitlements are for unemployed A2 and A8 migrants who have previously been in employment in the UK for less than a year. [129014]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1413W.

Standard Housing Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on work incentives of the pilot standard housing allowance. [117575]

Mr. Plaskitt: Evidence from the pathfinder local housing allowance evaluation to date suggests that claimants who are paid their benefit directly are more likely to report that they are looking for work, and the proportion of claimants paid directly has increased from 50 per cent. to 84 per cent. Increased financial inclusion can improve work readiness and 91 per cent. of tenants have a bank or building society account, with around a quarter of claimants saying that they opened an account because of the local housing allowance. Additionally, the transparency of the local housing allowance is reported to make discussions about work between advisers and claimants easier. Some of these effects of the local housing allowance, such as increased financial inclusion, will take time to impact on claimant behaviour.

The final evaluation reports are scheduled to be published in the summer.

State Retirement Pensions: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of age addition to their state pension in Greater London. [127237]

James Purnell: As at March 2006, there were 234,000 state pension claimants in Greater London in receipt of the 25p age addition.

Notes:

1. Data are taken from a 5 per cent. sample and therefore subject to sampling variation.

2. Data have been rated to 100 per cent. WPLS data and rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:

Information Directorate 5 per cent. Quarterly Statistical Enquiry sample and 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Small Business

12. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the number of Government schemes in place to support small businesses. [128960]

Margaret Hodge: DTI Ministers and Ministers from the Treasury meet regularly to discuss a range of issues.

Businesses: Taxation

13. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the impact of taxation on businesses. [128961]

Mr. Darling: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones).

Research Councils

14. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effect of the recently announced change in research councils' budgets on the work of individual research councils. [128962]

Malcolm Wicks: There has been no change to the annual budgets of research councils. What my hon. Friend announced on 20 February 2007 were reductions to the stock of accumulated end of year flexibility (EYF).

The research councils are now considering the implications for their planned activities, and are making individual announcements as they make decisions. Four councils have so far made announcements—the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council. The others will follow suit over the course of the rest of March and April 2007.

Bank of Credit and Commerce International

15. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made on the Bank of Credit and Commerce International liquidation; and if he will make a statement. [128964]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The conduct of the liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA is a matter for the liquidators.

The liquidators will shortly be submitting their annual report to the Secretary of State covering the 12-month period to 15 January 2007.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects the liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International to be resolved. [129549]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The liquidators are making every effort to conclude the liquidation and pay final amounts to creditors as soon as possible, however, the English liquidation is one of several worldwide that are closely linked and only when they are all substantially complete will it be possible for a formal conclusion in this country.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with creditors in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International case. [129550]

Jim Fitzpatrick: From time to time Ministers have met my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) in the company of one or more deposit creditors of BCCI.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department has had with counterparts in the Cayman Islands and Luxembourg authorities regarding the Bank of Credit and Commerce International liquidation. [129551]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has had no discussions with authorities in the Cayman Islands or Luxemburg on this matter; the progress and control of the liquidations are matters for the liquidators, creditors and courts of the various jurisdictions.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to improve administrative processes in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International case. [129552]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The administration of the liquidations is a matter for the liquidators, creditors and courts of the various jurisdictions. The Secretary of State has no role to play in such administration.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the final cost to the public purse of the liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International; and what proportion of total moneys recovered this represents. [129553]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost of the BCCI liquidation will be entirely borne by the company's estate.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the lessons to be drawn from the liquidation process of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. [129554]

Jim Fitzpatrick: BCCI's has been one of the most complex liquidations ever, which has resulted in exceptional returns to creditors, who will have received 84 per cent. of what they are owed by the end of 2007. This case has shown how the liquidation process can benefit from the close involvement of creditors in assisting liquidators to carry out their functions.

Home Renewable Energy Schemes

16. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will increase his Department's allocation of funds to home renewable energy schemes. [128965]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme has two phases with the aim of helping to build a sustainable industry for microgeneration technologies.

Phase 1 (£30 million) was launched in April 2006 and provides several streams of funding for householders. Phase 2, with a £50 million budget announced in Budget 2006, was launched in December. It supports projects in the public and not for profit sectors, with the specific aim of driving down the costs of microgeneration technologies. Both phases continue to make good progress.

Under Phase 1 we have so far committed £7.2 million to 4,550 household projects and £1.1 million to 64 community projects, and we expect to commit around £2.3 million to the 26 Stream 2 projects in the first round of grant awards.

The Low Carbon Buildings Programme is a demonstration not a deployment programme, and we believe that the current funding made available to the household stream will allow us to meet the key objectives of the scheme. We aim to continue funding until June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

UK and EU Trade Balance

17. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the UK trade balance was with other European Union countries in the latest period for which figures are available. [128966]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK deficit on trade in goods and services with the EU25 was £37.9 billion in 2005 (the latest period for which a complete set of figures is available).

The ONS caution that following a change in the pattern of trade associated with MTIC Fraud, interpretation of the breakdown between EU and non-EU trade is more difficult.

Total UK exports (goods + services) were £326 billion in 2005—up 9 per cent. on 2004.

The stock of inward investment in the UK rose to £483 billion at the end of 2005, a rise of £119 billion over the stock at the end of 2004.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128067]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Figures for broken-down costs of such spending by the Department through the Central Office of Information are available for 2004-05 and 2005-06 but are not readily available for the preceding years and to provide these would incur disproportionate cost.

The figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 for the cost of advertising on TV, on radio and in the press (including advertising by the Small Business Service) and excluding production costs and VAT are as follows:

£

	TV	*Radio*	*Press*
2004-05			
Consumer Direct	—	327,056	170,603
SBS Business Link	—	—	555,967
Import Licence Announcements	—	—	74,300
DTI Classified Recruitment Advertising	—	—	41,007
National Minimum Wage	—	—	315,754
Renewable Energy	—	—	15,542
The Queen's Awards for Enterprise	—	—	30,494
Firework Safety	—	152,680	17,061
Dispute Resolution	—	—	81,768
Total	0	479,736	1,302,496
2005-06			
Consumer Direct	—	823,011	366,935
DTI Classified/Recruitment Advertising	—	—	31,099
SBS Business Link	—	—	1,502,301
National Minimum Wage	—	—	328,604
Directgov—DTI Employee Franchise	—	—	117,690
Total	0	823,011	2,346,629

The total cost of media spend on advertising and promotional campaigns run by the Department through the Central Office of Information (excluding VAT) in 2004-05 was £2,009,800 and for 2005-06 £3,257,543.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128253]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department and its agencies have arrangements in place with Royal Mail for the despatch of its standard mail. The DTI follows Office of Government Commerce procurement guidance and seeks to ensure value for money when considering which postal operators to use.

EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total value was of *(a)* grants to and *(b)* related contributions from (i) organisations which are not small or medium-sized enterprises, (ii) large companies and (iii) universities under the EU Framework Programme in each year since 2004 which are not small or medium-sized enterprises. [121384]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to parliamentary questions 120025, 120026 and 120029, answered on 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 654W, 654-55W and 656-67W respectively.

Energy Supply: EC Law

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what steps he plans to take to implement Article 13 of the Energy Services Directive following completion of the metering and billing consultation; [128678]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on how smart meters can contribute to the plans for carbon zero houses in 2016. [128679]

Malcolm Wicks: In addition to considering responses to its consultation on metering and billing, including smart metering, the Department has had extensive exchanges with interested parties within and outside Government. The Government will set out its views on metering and billing, including matters arising from Article 13 of the Energy Services Directive, in the forthcoming Energy White Paper.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 547W to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, what role his Department has in monitoring the spending of public money by that authority. [125053]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is a non-departmental public body (NDPB). My Department sets its budget, which includes grant in aid, and my officials monitor the NDA in line with parliamentary controls set out in Government Accounting—which includes agreeing limits on the NDA's delegated authority. In addition, officials have due regard to compliance with Cabinet Office guidance on the management of NDPBs.

Package Holidays: Safety

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from consumer groups on *(a)* tour operator liabilities and *(b)* the adequacy of the protection afforded by current legislation under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 following the fatalities at the Louis Corcyra Beach Hotel, Corfu, in October 2006. [128155]

Mr. McCartney: Since October 2006 I have received no representation from customer groups on the issues listed.

Phoenix Companies: Complaints

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints trading standards officers have received regarding so-called phoenix companies, which liquidate and reform, in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [122985]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Trading standards officers are linked to local authorities and do not report directly to the Department of Trade and Industry. The information requested is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Radio Frequencies: Licensing

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what statutory powers he has to direct Ofcom in the implementation of a decision by the EC Radio Spectrum Committee allowing 2G spectrum to be reframed for 3G use. [127679]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State can direct Ofcom's management of spectrum for security, international relations and public safety reasons under Section 5 of the Communications Act 2003, or more broadly under Section 156 of the Act.

To invoke Section 156, Ofcom must be consulted, and other Departments would be consulted on the merits of any particular case through the Cabinet Office Official Committee on Spectrum Strategy. Any direction would then be laid before Parliament and subject to an affirmative resolution of each House.

Redundancy

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the compatibility of existing provisions of employer redundancy schemes with age discrimination regulations, with particular reference to his Department's own redundancy scheme. [127585]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 provide exemptions from age challenge for employers that either follow the statutory redundancy scheme or offer enhanced versions of the statutory scheme. These exemptions were discussed with employer groups including the CBI and EEF. However, the Government do not hold details of employers' individual schemes.

If staff of the Department of Trade and Industry are made redundant, they receive benefits as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS). The Cabinet Office is reviewing the terms of the CSCS, taking account of various factors including the provisions of the age legislation, and plans to consult the Council of Civil Service Unions about changes to the scheme in due course.

Small Businesses: Females

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to assist female entrepreneurs to set up their own businesses. [128953]

Margaret Hodge: Women entrepreneurs make a significant contribution to the UK economy. Women-owned businesses contribute about £60 billion to the UK economy. Developing women's enterprise is therefore an economic imperative.

That is why I have been working with providers of business support to ensure that women can access the women-friendly advice and help they need. Our key partners in this area are the regional development agencies.

I have set up the Task Force on Women's Enterprise, which has been tasked with driving forward the development of women's enterprise.

To supplement the role of the Task Force, I have also established a network of women entrepreneur ambassadors to inspire other women in starting their own businesses.

Telephones: Digital Technology

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses which receive telephone services through a digital access carrier system in each region of the UK. [127257]

Margaret Hodge: I understand from BT that this information is not available on a regional basis. The company estimates that the current number of UK telephone lines delivered through a digital access carrier system is 550,000, a reduction of 100,000 lines since February 2006.

Thomas Cook

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from *(a)* independent and *(b)* non-vertically integrated tour operators on the proposed Thomas Cook MyTravel merger. [128154]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not received any representations from tour operators relating to the proposed merger. The regulatory function of investigating mergers is the responsibility of the independent competition authorities.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Energy Supply

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in the provision of electricity networks and supply throughout Afghanistan since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [127152]

Hilary Benn: The latest quarterly progress report issued by the Government of Afghanistan (GoA)states that the Ministry of Energy and Water, in partnership with various donors and governments, has made considerable strides since 2003 to rehabilitate the provision of electricity throughout Afghanistan. It is estimated that 15 per cent. of the population now has access to some electrical power. This includes approximately 378,700 urban and rural households, 33,500 commercial establishments and 5,300 government institutions. However, access remains poor and is often unreliable. Furthermore, figures should be treated with caution as there are serious limitations in ability to measure some of the statistics. DFID is not directly engaged in this sector. Lead donors are the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

In October 2002, USAID committed support for a national irrigation and power rehabilitation programme in conjunction with Afghanistan's Ministry of Energy and Water. The programme is focused on the rehabilitation of the south east power system (SEPS), a 100 MW power generation and transmission network. It aims to provide low cost and reliable power to 1.7 million residents in Helmand and Kandahar provinces by the end of 2009. Central to this initiative is a commitment to rehabilitate the Kajaki multi-purpose dam, built by USAID in 1953 on the Helmand river.

The programme is split into phases and will include rehabilitating and upgrading the dam, its power plant and associated transmission network by 2009. The first phase will increase Kajaki's generation capacity to 51 MW. Funding of $150 million has already been allocated for this work. The UK Government, through DFID, may fund smaller projects in the vicinity of the dam as part of a stabilisation programme.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan was channelled through the Asian Development Bank in each year since 2001. [127974]

Hilary Benn: Since 2001, DFID Afghanistan has channelled £335,000 to the Asian Development Bank for reconstruction and development. This support was divided equally between 2005-06 and 2006-07. This funding provides technical assistance to help the Afghan Government address key policy and institutional issues in the areas of land policy and land administration.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what anti-corruption safeguards are in place to ensure that aid given to African countries is used for its intended purpose. [128870]

Hilary Benn: Corruption is a serious problem in much of Africa and the poor suffer most. When deciding how to provide assistance to developing country partners, DFID carefully assesses their commitment to improving public financial management, promoting good governance and transparency, and fighting corruption.

In most countries, DFID delivers aid in a range of ways and the choice of aid instruments depends on the circumstances of each country. DFID takes strong measures to protect our aid programmes from corruption. Strong procurement and management systems have been established to prevent corruption in projects and programmes directly administered by DFID. These systems are subject to independent and systematic audit and evaluation that provide high levels of assurance on the adequacy of systems of control and the processes for safeguarding assets. The external audit for DFID projects is carried out by the UK National Audit Office.

When funds are granted directly to a partner government as Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS), direct responsibility for the use and auditing of those funds is passed to that government. Before a decision is made to provide budget support, DFID carries out a detailed Fiduciary Risk Assessment. This includes a specific assessment of the risk of corruption and enables us to decide whether the circumstances are appropriate for providing PRBS. DFID considers the risk of corruption in the formal public financial management systems, taking into account how these systems operate in practice and the wider governance and institutional context of the country.

Where significant corruption or other fiduciary risks are identified, we consider whether the partner government has a credible programme of reform and whether any additional measures are needed to mitigate the risk. We may require additional measures such as independent audits, Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys or the use of donor procurement systems rather than government ones. Progress is monitored. PRBS is usually accompanied by technical assistance to help the government strengthen its systems.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128005]

Mr. Thomas: DFID employs a number of measures to ensure the economical use of paper. All printers and photocopiers wherever possible are set as a default to double-sided printing, and staff are encouraged not to print out internal correspondence sent via e-mail unless absolutely necessary. Our electronic document records management system means that staff have access to a central electronic repository of documents rather than needing to rely on paper files. All used paper is sent for recycling.

DFID currently meets the Government targets for sustainable operations in respect of the reduction of waste generally.

Developing Countries: Rural Areas

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much he has allocated to rural livelihoods in developing countries for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [128472]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's budget for 2007-08 does not make a separate allocation for rural livelihoods. However, in its recent study on tackling poverty in rural areas, the National Audit Office noted DFID's estimate that two-thirds of its bilateral spending directly benefits the rural poor.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which local communities his Department has consulted on the design and operation of country programmes to reach the rural poor. [128792]

Hilary Benn: DFID does not maintain central records of our interaction with rural communities in developing countries. But we are committed to broad country ownership of national development plans and policy making. This includes poor and excluded communities. In many countries we encourage and support mechanisms that enable poor men and women to have a say in national and local planning and to monitor the services that government are providing.

In Ghana, for example, we are supporting the disability movement so that they can influence national poverty reduction plans and budget decisions. In Uganda, the Kabarole Research Centre, with DFID support, monitors the quality of government service provision in rural areas and feeds that information back to local government.

In Tanzania, in the development of poverty reduction plans for the mainland and Zanzibar, we supported consultations with rural communities, including vulnerable groups such as the elderly, on policies to improve service delivery in rural areas. Now, through a grant-making foundation, we are building the capacity of rural organisations such as ageing and disability groups to monitor the quality of service provision. We are funding a 'Views of the People' survey through the Government's poverty monitoring system that will shed light on rural people's views of government performance in tackling rural poverty.

In Nepal, the rural roads programme involves structured consultation with communities to ensure that the needs of everyone—rather than just a vocal few—are taken into account. Communities also identify the poorest families amongst them to take part in road construction. Similarly in Ghana, the Department of Feeder Roads uses a road prioritisation methodology that gives rural communities an opportunity to identify and prioritise their need for rural roads. This approach, developed with DFID support, is being adopted in Ghana to prioritise funding from other development agencies.

In Ethiopia, numerous rural communities from 286 districts were consulted on implementation of the productive safety nets programme. Communities helped identify people who would be eligible for assistance as well as public works programmes that they would engage in.

And in India, the design team for phase 2 of the Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project has consulted communities and field staff who work with them about the effectiveness and impact of the first phase.

Inter-American Development Bank

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had on developments at the Inter-American Development Bank and its fund for development. [128276]

Mr. Thomas: I met President Moreno of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) twice in the last year, in April 2006 at the IADB annual meetings held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and in June 2006 in London. We discussed a range of issues including the use of the fund for special operations (FSO), debt relief for the regional heavily indebted poorer countries (HIPC), the President's "Building Opportunities for the Majority" initiative, and proposed work on climate change. On each occasion I confirmed our support for the President's reorganisation of the Bank, which DFID has been supporting, his work to help borrowing member countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region tackle poverty, inequality and respond to climate change, and work to improve the Bank's performance in making lending available to small enterprises. To date, DFID has approved £18.3 million to support the IADB's work in these areas.

I have also expressed to the President my concern over the details of the current IADB's debt relief initiative to cancel all the outstanding loans of the five HIPC countries in the region. We are concerned that it will constrain the Bank's ability to provide substantial and concessional financing to the poorer HIPC countries to finance the millennium development goals (MDGs). The UK has strongly supported the IADB providing additional debt relief to these HIPCs, but we are concerned about the way the deal is structured and the lack of additional financing for MDGs.

Lebanon

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the priorities of his Department are towards Lebanon. [128776]

Hilary Benn: DFID does not have a bilateral programme in Lebanon. However, the UK responded to the humanitarian crisis last year by contributing £22.3 million at the international donors' conference in Stockholm in August 2006. This money was allocated to humanitarian relief (logistics, food, water, sanitation) delivered through aid agencies (e.g. Red Cross, United Nations (UN)); munitions clearance; bridging (providing and transporting temporary bridges to Lebanon) and funding that is channelled through multilateral funds, e.g. the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the European Commission (EC).

Over the next four years we will be continuing a further £60 million (approximately) to Lebanon through contributions to the international system. Therefore, a key priority for DFID is to ensure the effective use of funding delivered through multilateral channels.

A difficult problem that we have been addressing in Lebanon is danger to civilians from unexploded bombs. On top of the £1.5 million we had already committed to clearance of unexploded mines, we made available a further £1.2 million to the UN Mines Action Service (UNMAS) and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) for further munitions clearance work in Lebanon. This means DFID's total contribution to munitions clearance is now close to £2.8 million. We have also asked the Government of Israel to hand over all relevant maps locating unexploded ordnance.

Improving the plight of Palestinian refugees remains a priority for DFID. At the Paris III conference on reconstruction in Lebanon in January 2007, we committed a further £24.4 million to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for 2011-12, on top of the £76 million that will be provided to UNRWA over the next four years. Although funds are not earmarked, UNRWA estimates approximately 20 per cent. of these funds will support Palestinians in Lebanon.

The ripple-effect of conflict and instability in Lebanon holds significant risks for our bilateral programmes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Iraq. We therefore have an interest in addressing the causes of conflict in Lebanon and seeing a stable and prosperous state. In partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) we work through HMG's Global Conflict and Prevention Pool (GCPP) to support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and to contribute to peacebuilding.

With the UK embassy in Beirut we are also monitoring initiatives to promote democratic oversight of reconstruction spending and planning. This has the potential to address some of the issues underlying the internal conflict in Lebanon.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the measures necessary to ensure the safety of aid workers operating in Darfur. [129005]

Hilary Benn: Humanitarian agencies in Darfur are struggling to deliver in an increasingly difficult environment. Part of this is due to the general

insecurity and targeted attacks on humanitarian vehicles, staff and assets and it is partly due to the bureaucratic impediments that undermine the ability of agencies to operate effectively.

With the UN and other international actors, we are urging all sides, including both the rebels and the Government of Sudan, to respect the neutrality of humanitarian agencies and cease all harassment and attacks on their staff. We are also lobbying hard for the Government to ease restrictions on humanitarian agencies particularly on accessing those in need, recruitment, importing supplies, visas and permits for staff.

Through the Common Humanitarian Fund (UK contribution £40 million in 2007) we are also strengthening the ability of the UN to monitor, report and respond to security incidents involving humanitarian workers.

UN Commission for Sustainable Development

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what matters the Government plan to raise at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development in New York in April. [128143]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The 15th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) takes place in New York from the 30 April to 11 May 2007. The topics under discussion were agreed in the 2003 multi-year programme of work, which operates in two-yearly cycles, with one review year and one policy year. We are currently in the second, policy year, of discussions on the cluster of climate change, industrial development, energy for sustainable development, and air pollution and atmosphere.

The UK will be working, through the EU, to secure action-oriented outcomes in each of the thematic sectors. In particular, the EU is looking to foster a transition to a global low-carbon economy, with diversified energy policies included in national sustainable development strategies and plans by 2010, and with priority to energy efficiency, renewable energies and improved access to sustainable and affordable energy services for all. The EU has also called for a basket of voluntary commitments on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewables, and a review mechanism to assess progress.

We are also working to ensure an integrated approach through including these issues in national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies and national development plans. We believe that full consideration of the interlinkages and cross-cutting issues is fundamental to good policy-making.

In addition, we want to ensure that the work of the CSD is complementary to and supports, rather than cuts across, the discussions and negotiations under the United Nations Forum Convention on Climate Change and its associated Kyoto protocol.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to attend the 15th UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in April. [128144]

Mr. Thomas: The 15th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development will take place in New York from 30 April to 11 May 2007. The four main themes this year are Energy for Sustainable Development, Air Pollution/Atmosphere, Industrial Development and Climate Change. We are currently considering ministerial attendance with DEFRA.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Baby Care Units

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many babies were transferred to hospitals outside Northern Ireland in each of the last six years because of the lack of suitable intensive care facilities in Northern Ireland. [128645]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of babies transferred to hospitals outside Northern Ireland in 2001 is not available within the timeframe provided. Information on the number of babies transferred to hospitals outside Northern Ireland for the years 2002 to 2006 inclusive are provided in the following table:

Number of babies that have been transferred outside Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for services that are not provided in Northern Ireland

Trust	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
Altnagelvin Group	1	0	0	1	0	2
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	0	1	0	1	0	2
Newry and Mourne	0	0	0	1	1	2
Sperrin Lakeland	0	0	0	0	2	2
Royal Group of Hospitals	1	2	4	2	1	10
Ulster Community and Hospitals	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Hospitals	0	0	0	2	0	2

Source:
HPSS Trusts

Dogs: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions for the ownership of a dangerous dog there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and what the *(a)* penalty imposed and *(b)* breed of dog was in each case. [120441]

David Cairns: Local councils provide statistical information to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) with respect to enforcement of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (as amended), including the number of prosecutions taken for offences under the legislation. However, prior to 2006 these returns did not specifically distinguish prosecutions for ownership of banned dogs from other prosecutions taken under the legislation.

Since January 2006, figures provided to DARD by local councils show that there have been five successful prosecutions, details of which are set out in the following table. There are also a further 11 prosecutions pending, all of which are with respect to possession of pit bull type dogs. To date, DARD has received statistical information for the final quarter of 2006 from 25 of the 26 local councils.

Successful prosecutions for possession of prohibited dog types during 2006[1] (from information provided to DARD by local councils)

Type of dog	*Order*	*Penalty (£)*
Pit bull type dog	Destruction order	50 fine
Pit bull type dog	No destruction order as dog died	200 fine plus a 2 year disqualification order
Pit bull type dog	Destruction order	50 fine plus 169 costs
Pit bull type dog	Destruction order	200 fine plus 94 costs
Pit bull type dog	Destruction order	100 fine plus 181 costs plus costs for the destruction of the dog

[1] To date DARD has received statistical information for the final quarter of 2006 from 25 of the 26 local councils.

English Language

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people participated in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [128388]

Maria Eagle: The following table details the number of people participating in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses in the Northern Ireland further education colleges in each of the last five academic years for which data are available.

Academic year	*ESOL students*
2001-02	882
2002-03	1,116
2003-04	1,338
2004-05	3,494
2005-06	6,048

Source:
Further Education Statistical Record

Inquiries: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the *(a)* Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland Office inquiries, *(b)* Bloody Sunday inquiry, *(c)* hosting the St. Andrew's talks, *(d)* Rosemary Nelson inquiry and *(e)* the Finucane inquiry cost to date. [121664]

Mr. Hain: The costs to the end of January 2007 are set out in the following table. The Patrick Finucane inquiry has not yet been established.

	Costs (£ million)
Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland	[1]47.2
Bloody Sunday inquiry	176.2
St. Andrews agreement talks	[2]0.39
Rosemary Nelson inquiry	11. 6

[1] The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland does not conduct inquiries, her role being one of investigating complaints made against the police. In fulfilling this function, expenditure for the Police Ombudsman over the period 6 November 2000 to 31 March 2007 is detailed in the table. The figure for expenditure for the current financial year is an estimate based on the budget allocated to the Ombudsman for 2006-07.
[2] This represents a total figure. Costs of hosting the talks are to be jointly shared with the Irish Government.

Water Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* average standing charge and *(b)* average effective tax rate to be levied as part of the house price tax element is under the new system of water rates from April. [119552]

David Cairns: When domestic water and sewerage charges are introduced on 1 April 2007 they will be phased in over three years. Consequently, customers will only pay one third of the full charges in 2007-08.

The standing charges for water and sewerage will be the same for all domestic properties and are currently estimated at around £17 each. The variable charges for water and sewerage are expressed as a rate per £1,000 of capital value and are both currently estimated at around 30p per £1,000 of capital value. The average combined charge for water and sewerage is, therefore, estimated at around £100 in 2007-08.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Antarctic Territory: Expenditure

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* capital expenditure on the British Antarctic Territory in (A) 2002, (B) 2004 and (C) 2006. [128654]

Mr. Hoon: Direct staff administration costs for the Government of the British Antarctic Territory (BAT) are met by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. There is no capital expenditure. The non-staff administration costs for the BAT are as follows:

	Amount (£)
2002-03[1]	33,641.56
2004-05[1]	20,175.27
2005-06[1]	7,562.32

[1] The BAT financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June so final figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

British Council: Expenditure

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the British Council spent in *(a)* Europe, *(b)* the Middle East, *(c)* South and Central America, *(d)* Africa, *(e)* North America, *(f)* Asia and *(g)* Australasia in (i) 2000 and (ii) 2006. [128814]

Mr. Hoon: Since 2005 the British Council has organised its work overseas into 13 regions. We are therefore unable to provide the information in the exact categories requested by my hon. Friend. The total British Council spend in 2001-02 compared with 2005-06 in its 13 regions is shown in the following table. (All figures are at 2005-06 prices).

We have used 2001-02 figures because detailed 2000-01 figures could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

£ million

British Council spend	*2001-02*	*2005-06*
Central and Southern Asia	10.1	17.1
China and Hong Kong	21.1	24.1
East and West Africa	13.7	21.3
East Asia	36.6	36.8
India and Sri Lanka	11.5	14.5
Latin America and Caribbean	17.3	14.9
Middle East	16.1	20.2
Near East and North Africa	15.1	15.1
North and Central Europe	18.2	18.3
Russia	7.7	9.2
South East Europe	31.9	32.6
Southern Africa	9.4	11.5
West Europe and North America	50.1	55.9
Total	258.8	291.5

Exports: Licensing

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many export licences she was sent for her approval in 2006; in respect of which countries; and how many were refused. [129028]

Mr. Hoon: Seven export licences were sent to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary for her approval in 2006. Six were for Israel and one for Nigeria. All were approved.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in the Human Rights and Good Governance team of her Department are tasked with monitoring export licences for compliance with criterion 2 of the EU Code of Conduct; and how many licences that team was sent in 2006. [129029]

Mr. McCartney: There are three officers within the Human Rights Democracy and Governance Group (HRDGG) who dedicate approximately 40 per cent., 40 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively of their time ensuring that the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country of final destination is brought into the export licensing process. In doing so, they regularly consult other interested departments and overseas Posts.

HRDGG were consulted on 631 licences in 2006.

Gibraltar: Spain

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Spanish Government on Gibraltar in 2007. [126978]

Mr. Hoon: I have had discussions with Spanish counterparts on a number of issues, including Gibraltar, in 2007. Most recently, issues relating to the Gibraltar Trilateral agreements were raised during conversations with State Secretary Leon in February and March, and EU-related matters were discussed during a meeting with State Secretary Navarro in January.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Gibraltar, among other issues, with the Spanish Foreign Minister on 19 March.

British and Spanish officials also hold regular discussions on a range of issues, including issues related to Gibraltar.

Kashmir

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her Indian and Pakistani counterparts on Kashmir. [128867]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed India-Pakistan relations, and the situation in Kashmir, with the Government of Pakistan during her visit to Islamabad in February, and with the Government of India during her visit to New Delhi in November 2006.

We welcome India and Pakistan's continuing commitment to the dialogue process, and hope that this will lead to a lasting resolution of all outstanding issues, including Kashmir.

Namibia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to invite the President of Namibia for a state visit to the UK. [126987]

Mr. McCartney: There are currently no plans for the President of Namibia to undertake a state visit to the UK. However, plans are under way to invite His Excellency President Pohamba to the UK as a guest of the Government later this year.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1205W, on whales, which other foreign Governments she

intends to lobby before the 2007 International Whaling Commission meeting; [128620]

(2) on whaling, whether she has approached the Government of any foreign country which voted in favour of lifting the moratorium on whaling at the 2006 International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting to lobby them to vote to maintain the international moratorium at the 2007 IWC meeting; [128623]

(3) which seven foreign Governments her Department has approached; which two expressed the intention of joining the International Whaling Commission and voting with the UK; what the intentions of the other five countries are; and if she will make a statement. [128625]

Mr. McCartney: Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts continue to lobby in the run-up to the next International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in May. 17 countries have now been approached since the last IWC meeting in June 2006: Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Uruguay.

Croatia and Cyprus have now joined the IWC. Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Romania and Turkey have committed themselves to joining as soon as domestic legislative procedures allow. Guatemala is a member but is undecided whether it will participate this year. Uruguay is a lapsed member and has not made a decision about re-joining. Andorra and Liechtenstein will not join due to lack of administrative capacity. Other countries listed, apart from Mongolia, have yet to make a final decision on joining.

Mongolia is an IWC member which voted to lift the moratorium on commercial whaling at last year's IWC meeting. The Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not confirmed how it will vote this year, or if it will attend.

Future lobbying plans are under discussion.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff work in the *(a)* Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, *(b)* Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and *(c)* Office for Public Service Reform. [129225]

Hilary Armstrong: Numbers of staff employed in the Cabinet Office, by unit, will be included in the Cabinet Office Annual Report, due for publication in mid-May.

Government Departments: Offices

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will publish information for charities on the availability of Whitehall departmental buildings for use as venues for *(a)* meetings, *(b)* fundraising events and *(c)* other occasions. [129190]

Hilary Armstrong: Usage of departmental buildings is a matter for individual Departments.

Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many times the Minister for the Third Sector has *(a)* spoken at and *(b)* attended meetings of the Smith Institute in the last 12 months. [120380]

Edward Miliband: Cabinet Office Ministers speak at a wide range of meetings and meet with a large range of organisations and as was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Women in Business

21. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she next expects to meet business organisations to discuss plans to encourage women to go into business. [128970]

Meg Munn: We have set up a Task Force for Women's Enterprise. The Minister for Industry and the regions leads on women's enterprise issues, and regularly meets the chairs and members of the Task Force. I also regularly meet groups of businesswomen and individual entrepreneurs, as well as those who advise and assist them.

Corston Report

22. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to implement the recommendations of the Corston report for the creation of small, local custody units. [128971]

Meg Munn: We very much welcome this report which the Home Office commissioned from Baroness Corston.

We will look carefully at all the issues it raises and the recommendations it makes for change. These will be thoroughly explored and we will develop a detailed response which we aim to publish in around three months.

Returning to Work

23. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research the Government have undertaken to establish the principal factors which enable women with children to return to work. [128973]

Meg Munn: The Government have commissioned a number of regular surveys which add to the evidence base and help to inform Government policy on women with children returning to work. These include:

Survey	*Department*	*Frequency*
The Work Life Balance Employee Survey.	DTI	Every three years[1]
The Families and Children Study.	DWP	Annual[2]
Survey of Parents Use and Views of Childcare and Early Years Services.	DfES	Annual[3]

Survey	Department	Frequency
The Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits Survey of Parents.	DWP and DTI	Periodic[4]

[1] Subject to the availability of resources.
[2] Funded until 2008.
[3] Surveys commissioned to 2009.
[4] Subject to the availability of resources.

Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations

24. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received on the application of the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007. [128974]

Meg Munn: Since the end of the consultation phase we have received over 4,000 letters, from a wide variety of individuals and organisations, and the Secretary of Sate has continued to hold meetings with representatives from a broad spectrum of stakeholder groups. We have recognised and listened to the strongly held beliefs on this complex issue, and are confident that the Regulations (approved by Parliament) strike a balance which uphold the rights of all.

Crimes against the Person: Females

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with Home Office colleagues on violence against women; and if she will make a statement. [128972]

Meg Munn: The Government are committed to tackling violence against women in all its forms.

I have regular discussions with Home Office colleagues on measures to address violence through the domestic violence, sexual offences and trafficking inter-ministerial groups. Recent initiatives have included the development of cross-government action plans.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Safety

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority in England and Wales spent on community safety in 2005-06; and what proportion of each authority's total expenditure this represented. [128908]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* Information on how much each local authority in England spent on community safety in 2005-06 has been made available in a table which has been placed in the Library of the House. The data are as recorded on revenue and capital outturn returns submitted to this Department by each local authority.

Information for Welsh local authorities is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average expenditure was on community safety by local authorities in 2005-06, broken down by type of local authority; and what proportion of total expenditure this represented. [128909]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* The information requested for English local authorities is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on community safety, police and fire services by type of local authority: 2005-06

	Average expenditure (£ million)	Proportion of total expenditure (Percentage)
London boroughs	5	1
Metropolitan districts	3	0
Unitary authorities	2	1
Shire counties	11	1
Shire districts	0	2
Police authorities	225	78
Fire authorities	46	72
Greater London Authority	3,561	48
Other authorities	0	0

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn and Capital Outturn Returns

Community safety is defined as the whole of expenditure on police and fire services plus the revenue spending on crime reduction and safety services and capital spending on community safety. These categories capture spending on community safety which authorities cannot clearly or properly allocate to a specific service.

Departments: ICT

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Gateway reviews *(a)* have been produced and *(b)* are under way for projects under the responsibility of her Department and its agencies. [127102]

Ruth Kelly: Office of Government Commerce (OGC) gateway reviews have been carried out on the following Communities and Local Government projects and programmes since the Department was created on 5 May 2006:

Home Information Packs
Fire Service College E-Learning
Transactional ERDF and State Aid
Pan-Government Agreement on Geographical Information
Government Office IT Outsourcing Project
Open Space Works
Tenancy Deposit Protection
Thames Gateway
Housing Corporation ICT Infrastructure Management
Local Area Agreements
FiReControl
Franchising Sustainable Communities Summit
New Dimension (Long Term Capability Management).

Local Government: Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a full

council could overturn the *(a)* decisions and *(b)* budget of a directly-elected executive under her proposals for reform of local government. [127010]

Ruth Kelly: The Local Government Act 2000 provides that all decisions in the authority are the responsibility of the executive unless otherwise provided for in regulations made under that Act. This applies to a directly elected executive as to any other executive. Those regulations provide for the authority to adopt its annual budget based on the executive's proposals, with or without amendment. In the case of a mayoral executive, the council can amend the executive's budget proposals only on a two-thirds majority, and we intend to apply this same provision to elected executives.

Social Services: Grants

Mr. Nell Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central Government grant each local authority delivering social services would have received if *(a)* floors and ceilings had not been applied and *(b)* if damping had not been applied to the children and young adults element of the grant. [112523]

Mr. Woolas *[pursuant to the reply, 8 February 2007, Official Report, c. 1162W]:* A corrected table has been placed in the Library of the House showing how much formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant, would have been received in 2007-08 *(a)* if damping had been applied to the Children's Social Care Relative Needs Formula and the Younger Adults' Personal Social Services Relative Needs Formula but floor damping had not been applied and *(b)* if damping had neither been applied to the Children's Social Care Relative Needs Formula and the Younger Adults' Personal Social Services Relative Needs Formula nor had floor damping been applied.

It is not possible to say how much grant authorities would have received in 2007-08 had damping not been applied to the Children's Social Care Relative Needs Formula and the Younger Adults' Personal Social Services Relative Needs Formula but floor damping had been applied, since we might have taken different decisions on the level of floor damping to ensure that every authority would have received a reasonable increase year-on-year on a like-for-like basis, i.e. after adjusting for changes in funding and function.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Candidates

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will amend electoral legislation to allow the words 'the' and 'candidate' to be used within the description of any political party candidate without an additional, specific description having to be registered under the Electoral Administration Act 2006. [128878]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 amended the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 so as to make new provision for political parties to register up to 12 descriptions of no more than six words for use on its nomination papers or ballot papers.

The Government have no plans to amend electoral legislation in the way suggested.

Election Petitions

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many election petitions have been heard in courts in England and Wales since 2000; what the outcome was of each case in which no proceedings remain active; which election each concerned; and what the nature was of each petition. [128881]

Bridget Prentice: The following table sets out the election petitions that have been heard in England and Wales since 2000:

Date	*Location*	*Grounds*	*Result*
Parliamentary			
10 August 2001	Romford	Offences contrary to s 113(i)and(2)(b)of(RPA1983(no details given)	Lapsed
31 May 2005	Greenwich and Woolwich	Unfair treatment of petitioner by the deputy returning officer. Other candidates invalidly completed nomination forms and rules of the Electoral Commission broken by other candidates.	Petition struck out on 8 August 2005
31 May 2005	Sparkbrook and Small Heath, Birmingham	Authorities failed to comply with ECHR article 3 of first protocol to create and operate a system of postal voting. False statements made to obtain postal votes contrary to s12(3) of the RPA 1983, using undue influence and fraudulent devices to impede or pervert free exercise of franchise by an elector contrary to s115(2)(b), fraudulently putting into any ballot box a paper other than authorised by law to do, contrary to s65(1)(d) of RPA 1983 and attempts to commit offences under s65(1)(d) contrary to s65(1)(a) of RPA 1983.	Petition dismissed on 28 October 2005
European			
14 June 2004	Eastern England	Various	Struck out 30 July 2004

Date	Location	Grounds	Result
Local government			
20 April 2000	South East ward of Knighton Town council in Powys	Votes incorrectly counted(some not counted).	Special case 11 December 2000. Petition allowed. Election valid. First respondent not elected. Petitioner elected.
20 May 2000	Parish of Bracknell ward of Bracknell Town council	Votes incorrectly counted.	Special case 25 July 2000 Petition allowed. Election valid. First respondent not elected. Petitioner elected.
25 May 2000	Sparkhill ward of Birmingham city council	Personation, error, treating, bribery, undue influence, overspending election expenses.	25 July 2000 Application to strike out on grounds of late service of petition. Dismissed.
25 May 2000	Nichells ward, Birmingham city council	Voters abroad shown as having voted.	Lapsed.
27 June 2001	South Ribble north-west electoral division of Lancashire county council	Ballot papers for another electoral division handed out to some voters in error.	Special case 5 October 2001 Petition allowed. Election void. First respondent not duly elected.
27 June 2001	Elkgan north electoral division, Redruth, Cornwall	Two votes included wrongly.	Special case 18 December 2001 Petition allowed. Election void. First respondent not duly elected.
22 May 2002	Sands End ward of London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	Ballot papers rejected for want of official mark affected result.	Special case 31 July 2002 Petition allowed. Election void. Second respondent not duly elected.
23 May 2002	Aston ward, city of Birmingham	Successful candidate made false statements about petitioner for purpose of affecting the result and/or alleged irregularities regarding opening of postal votes.	4 October 2002 petition struck out against second respondent. 11 October 2002 petition struck out against first respondent.
23 May 2002	Little Horton ward of Bradford metropolitan borough council	Error in counting votes.	29 November 2002 petition dismissed
23 May 2002	Chorlton ward, city of Manchester	Requests for proxy votes ignored. Personation, delay in taking ballot box to council, comments by first respondent during campaign.	11 October 2002 petition struck out.
23 May 2002	Peckham ward, London borough of Southwark	Marked register missing. Ballot box late arriving at court, count started before candidates arrived, voters removed from register, confusion over postal votes.	29 November 2002 petition dismissed with consent of first petitioner on behalf of co-petitioners.
21 May 2003	Belle Vale and Hasbury ward, metropolitan borough of Dudley	Failure by R/O to ensure issued ballot papers were delivered in accordance with Part V of Rep of People Regulations 2001.	19 December 2003 petition dismissed.
21 May 2003	St. Helens borough council in the Parish of Sawley Green	Votes miscounted.	Special case 17 October 2003. Election void, Joan Davies not duly elected.
21 May 2003	College ward of Wansbeck district council	Votes miscounted, block of votes wrongly allocated to candidates	Special case 17 October 2003. Election void, first respondent not duly elected, petitioner duly elected.
21 May 2003	Broughton and Appleby ward, North Lincolnshire district council	Ballot papers in respect of postal voter wrongly counted—did not bear signature and authentication of voter.	4 November 2003 petition granted, election void, Ivan Glover not duly elected.
23 May 2003	Hartley parish council	False statements against petitioner issued by respondent calculated to affect petitioners prospects of being re-elected.	Lapsed.
28 May 2003	Lightwater ward, borough of Surrey-Heath	Election circulation delivered by Royal Mail to constituents in contravention of RPA Act	31 July 2003 permission to withdraw granted.
28 May 2003	Windlesham parish council, Lightwater ward	Election circulation delivered by Royal Mail to constituents in contravention of RPA 1983.	31 July 2003 permission to withdraw granted.
29 June 2003	Park ward, Calderdale metropolitan borough	All postal ballot pilot failed. Breach of duty. Improper and unfair conduct.	22 March 2005 petition struck out.
23 June 2004	Aston ward, Birmingham city council	Various concerning postal voting.	4 April 2005 petition allowed, election void
29 June 2004	Bordesley Green, Birmingham city council	Disputing postal ballot papers—tampering and personation.	4 April 2005 petition allowed, election void.
30 June 2004	Derringham ward, Kingston upon Hull	Various—postal ballot papers.	24 November 2004 election void.

Date	Location	Grounds	Result
6 July 2004	Flintshire	Candidate disqualified from standing for election.	20 December 2004 petition dismissed
17 August 2005	Aston, Birmingham	Disputing postal ballot papers and tampering and impersonation	Struck out on 23 February 2006
11 May 2006	Kingstanding, Birmingham city council	Votes incorrectly counted	Petition allowed on 26 July 2006. First respondent not duly elected.
23 May 2006	Dudden Hill, London borough of Brent	Candidate disqualified from standing for election.	Petition allowed on 15 March 2007.
23 May 2006	St. Katherine and Wapping, London borough of Tower Hamlets	Violation of the requirement in Rule 7(3) of the Local Election (Principle Areas) Rules 1986 to examine nomination papers as soon as practical.	Petition dismissed on 10 October 2006.
24 May 2006	Eastbury ward, London borough of Barking and Dagenham	Votes incorrectly counted.	Petition allowed on 31 July 2006. Respondent not duly elected. Petitioner duly elected.
25 May 2006	Queen's Park, London borough of Brent	Votes incorrectly counted.	Lapsed.
25 May 2006	Foleshill, Coventry borough council	That the election be declared void on the grounds impersonation.	Petition struck out on 31 July 2006.
25 May 2006	Bethnal Green South, London borough of Tower Hamlets	Disputing postal votes alleging tampering and impersonation.	Petition dismissed on 29 January 2007.
25 May 2006	St. Dunstan's and Stepney Green, London borough of Tower Hamlets	Disputing postal votes alleging tampering and impersonation.	Petition dismissed on 10 October 2006
25 May 2006	Mile End Globe Town, London borough of Tower Hamlets	Disputing postal votes alleging tampering and impersonation.	Petition dismissed on 29 January 2007

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* placement orders and *(b)* adoption orders were made in 2006. [118648]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 832W.

Correspondence

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of letters from outside organisations his Department answered within its target time, broken down by *(a)* directorate and *(b)* unit of his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [117673]

Mr. Dhanda: For statistical purposes the Department does not differentiate between letters and emails, or whether the correspondence is from an individual or an organisation. For general correspondence (excluding freedom of information requests) our performance for the first three quarters of this operational year (1 April 2006 to 31 December 2006) is as follows:

Directorate	Answered within target (Percentage)
Children Young People and Families	86
Communications Directorate	49
Corporate Services and Development	97
Finance and Analytical services	92
Higher Education Directorate	90
Lifelong Learning and Skills	82
Private Office	96
Schools Directorate	94
Chief Information Officer Group	93
Emails not assigned to a Directorate	100
Overall	93

Freedom of information (FOI) requests are not available by directorate. The total FOI inquiries answered within the deadline for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006 is 89 per cent. The figures for the following quarter 1 October 2006 to 31 December 2006 are not yet available as the 20-day deadline for reporting did not end until 26 January 2007.

Curriculum: Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1702W, on curriculum expenditure, what exact amount his Department spent in 2005-06 on the delivery of the free entitlement for three and four year olds; what the exact level of funding has been in each of the last five years; and in relation to which duties set out in the Childcare Act 2006 each local authority spent the budget in 2005-06. [128747]

Beverley Hughes: The information available on expenditure for three and four year olds is shown in table 8.3 in the Departmental Report 2006. The

estimated outturn for 2005-06 is £3.443 billion. This includes expenditure on under fives in nursery schools, in primary schools and in the private, voluntary and independent sectors. For the outturn figures for the previous five years, I refer the hon. Member to row (c) of the answer I gave on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1396W.

The Childcare Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 11 July 2006 and, therefore, none of the duties contained in it were in force in 2005-06.

Departmental Office Space

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what area of office space his Department and its agencies used in central London in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [112187]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills used 36,840.20 sq m of leased office space in central London in 2004 and 35,663.20 sq m in 2006. The Department used no freehold office space in central London in 2004 or 2006, and had no agencies in central London in those years.

The Department aims to further reduce its central London office space by over 13,000 sq m by the end of 2008.

Departmental Staff

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether people employed *(a)* through employment agencies and *(b)* on a consultancy basis are included in the calculations for the full-time equivalent staff mentioned in his Department's annual report. [102998]

Mr. Dhanda: People employed through employment agencies and on a consultancy basis are not included in the numbers of full-time equivalent staff mentioned in the Department's annual report. Office for National Statistics guidance to Departments provides that self-employed contract workers and agency workers not paid directly from the payroll should be excluded from counts measuring the number of employees in the public sector and that only employees with an employment contract who are being paid by the organisation should be included.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126799]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not applied for any work permits during the last five years and has not had any agencies since 2001.

Entry to Employment Programme: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people joined the E2E programme in Gloucestershire in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [129288]

Phil Hope: Entry to Employment (E2E) is the main programme for young people not yet ready for an apprenticeship, a job or further learning. The number of young people joining E2E since it began for each funding year (August to July) in Gloucestershire is as follows:

	Number
2003/04	1,051
2004/05	741
2005/06	597
2006/07 (First six months)	309

Since 2005/06, additional pre-level 2 provision has been available locally through European social funds. Take-up of such programmes continues to rise in 2006/07. To date, 367 young people have started on this type of provision in Gloucestershire. This is aimed at young people who are not immediately ready to undertake E2E or the minimum attendance of 16 hours per week that E2E demands so offering a wider choice of provision at this level.

E2E has been successful. We will be looking to absorb its good practice into the new system we will be introducing in the next couple of years.

Nurseries: Qualifications

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to increase the number of individuals possessing level three and level two qualifications for running play and child care groups. [129290]

Beverley Hughes: In our 10-year strategy for childcare, 'Choice for parents, the best start for children' published in December 2004 and in our response to the Children's Workforce Strategy consultation published in February 2006, we set out our commitment to establishing a better qualified and more professional early years workforce. To help achieve this, we have introduced a £250 million Transformation Fund aimed at improving the quality of early-years provision without the cost of doing so being passed on to parents.

Between 2006 and 2008, a significant part of this Transformation Fund is being spent on increasing the number of early-years workers with at least a level three qualification. This fund adds to existing funding to local authorities and the Learning and Skills Council being used to increase the number of those with level 2 qualifications and to develop the early-years workforce more generally.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that playgroup qualification courses place appropriate emphasis upon work-based training. [129291]

Beverley Hughes: It is for the appropriate Sector Skills Council to specify the content of training courses. However, I can give an assurance that most of the courses available to those working in playgroups do involve work-based training.

Overseas Students: English Language

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students undertook English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in each year between 2000 and 2005, broken down by nationality of students. [128808]

Phil Hope: The number of enrolments to ESOL courses in each year between 2000 and 2005 is as follows:

	Number
2000/01	159,000
2001/02	302,000
2002/03	413,000
2003/04	488,000
2004/05	484,000
2005/06	[1]504,000

[1] Based on data up to October 2006, both confirmed and estimated.

Data on learners is gathered through the individualised learner record (ILR). Its primary function is to capture learner suitability to a learning aim and ensure correct payment to the provider of learning, and as such, there is no field on the ILR designed to capture a learner's nationality.

Runaway Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance is given to local authorities on children in their area who have run away or are missing from home, specifying in each case the *(a)* document, *(b)* paragraph and *(c)* line references; and whether each has statutory status. [128741]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* Government issued "Children Missing from Care and Home—a guide to good practice" in tandem with the social exclusion unit's report "Young Runaways" in 2002. This includes information for local authorities and their partner agencies on responding to children in care who go missing from their placements and to children who go missing from their homes.

Sections 1 to 7 of this guidance from pages 5 to 19 set out the issues to be considered and the processes to be followed so that local authorities respond effectively to children who go missing from their care placement. Sections 8 to 10 from pages 23 to 29 set out the issues and processes to be followed for those who run away from home.

This guidance and its related circular, LAC(2002)17, were issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 which means that, except in exceptional circumstances, councils must follow its advice.

We are currently working with the Children's Society to review how local authorities are meeting the needs of runaways under the Every Child Matters framework, and will consider the case for fresh guidance on runaways when that work is completed.

Schools: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools in Coventry offer extended hours; and if he will make a statement. [118999]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 7 February 2007]:* There are currently over 3,800 extended schools in England. This includes 18 extended schools in the Coventry local authority area (15 primary and three secondary).

All these schools are providing a core offer of extended services. This is comprised of a varied menu of study support activities and high quality child care 8 am to 6 pm all year round in primary schools. These services will be provided on the school site or in partnership with local private, voluntary and independent providers. They will also offer parenting support; swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist support services such as health and social care; and wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, on the school site including adult learning.

Special Educational Needs: East Yorkshire

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of children in East Yorkshire *(a)* had special educational needs and *(b)* were educated in special schools in each year since 2000. [126201]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information is shown in the tables.

All schools: Number and percentage of pupils with special educational needs (SEN)—position in January each year 2000 to 2006—East Yorkshire parliamentary constituency

	Maintained mainstream schools[1]					*Maintained special schools*[2]				
		Pupils with statements of SEN		*Pupils with SEN without statements*[3]			*Pupils with statements of SEN*		*Pupils with SEN without statements*[3]	
	Number of pupils[4]	*Number*	*Percentage*[5]	*Number*	*Percentage*[6]	*Number of pupils*[4]	*Number*	*Percentage*[5]	*Number*	*Percentage*[6]
2000	13,733	263	1.9	1,816	13.2	63	49	77.8	n/a	n/a
2001	13,968	343	2.5	1,874	13.4	63	55	87.3	n/a	n/a
2002	14,168	273	1.9	1,902	13.4	72	55	76.4	n/a	n/a
2003	14,246	320	2.2	1,556	10.9	71	55	77.5	0	0.0
2004	14,243	336	2.4	1,938	13.6	75	59	78.7	16	21.3
2005	14,156	325	2.3	1,977	14.0	79	64	81.0	15	19.0
2006	14,075	329	2.3	2,092	14.9	85	70	82.4	15	17.6

	Independent schools[1]					Total[2]				
		Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements[3]			Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements[3]	
	Number of pupils[4]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[6]	Number of pupils[4]	Number	Percentage[5]	Number	Percentage[6]
2000	957	0	0.0	25	2.6	14,750	310	2.1	1,840	12.5
2001	956	0	0.0	[9]—	[9]—	14,990	400	2.7	1,880	12.5
2002	852	0	0.0	20	2.3	15,090	330	2.2	1,920	12.7
2003	892	0	0.0	50	5.6	15,210	380	2.5	1,610	10.6
2004	886	0	0.0	42	4.7	15,210	400	2.6	2,000	13.1
2005	891	0	0.0	49	5.5	15,130	390	2.6	2,040	13.5
2006	886	0	0.0	51	5.8	15,050	400	2.7	2,160	14.3

n/a = not available
[1] Includes maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools.
[2] Maintained special schools only. There are no non-maintained special schools in East Yorkshire parliamentary constituency.
[3] A change to the Code of Practice in January 2002 means that the numbers of pupils with SEN without statements in 2003 and later are not directly comparable with earlier years.
[4] Headcount of pupils. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[5] The number of pupils with statements of SEN expressed as a percentage of the school population.
[6] The number of pupils with SEN without statements expressed as a percentage of the school population.
[7] Independent schools only. There are no direct grant nursery schools, city technology colleges or academies in East Yorkshire parliamentary constituency.
[8] Totals across all schools have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
[9] 1 or 2 pupils, or a rate based on 1 or 2 pupils
Source:
School Census

Training: Parents

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made towards the establishment of the National Parenting Academy. [128270]

Mr. Dhanda: The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) is the working title for what was previously termed the National Parenting Academy. This change of name recognises that the Academy is to be established to support the development and training of all who deliver services to parents.

The process to select the preferred supplier for the Academy is under way. We intend to confirm the supplier and award the grant to deliver the NAPP by the end of April 2007. The official launch for the NAPP is planned for Parents' Week which starts on 15 October 2007.

Youth Opportunity Funds

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been provided to schemes under the Youth Opportunities Fund, broken down by local authority area. [128262]

Mr. Dhanda: The Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) were announced in the Green Paper Youth Matters and have been available to local authorities from April 2006. A total of £115 million is available for both funds over the period 2006-08, £61.5 million of which is for YOF, half in each year.

The following table sets out yearly allocations for YOF and YCF to local authorities.

Table of allocations per year to local authorities for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08

£

Local authority	YOF allocation per year	YCF allocation per year	YOF and YCF per year
Barking and Dagenham	126,439	109,359.60	235,799
Barnet	199,556	172,599.98	372,156
Barnsley	139,977	121,069.25	261,046
Bath and North East Somerset	93,837	81,161.17	174,998
Bedfordshire	227,316	196,610.00	423,926
Bexley	132,918	114,963.26	247,881
Birmingham	785,126	679,070.94	1,464,197
Blackburn with Darwen	102,521	88,672.31	191,193
Blackpool	93,703	81,045.49	174,748
Bolton	186,811	161,576.36	348,387
Bournemouth	90,000	72,404.36	162,404
Bracknell Forest	90,000	65,000.00	155,000
Bradford	362,009	313,109.07	675,118
Brent	178,245	154,167.39	332,412
Brighton and Hove	140,880	121,849.96	262,730
Bromley	166,709	144,189.89	310,899
Buckinghamshire	232,207	200,840.57	433,048
Bury	99,979	86,473.92	186,453
Calderdale	121,967	105,492.00	227,459
Cambridgeshire	286,903	248,148.19	535,051
Camden	129,061	111,627.75	240,689
Cheshire	343,328	296,951.10	640,279
City of Bristol	259,783	224,691.09	484,474
City of Derby	150,403	130,086.52	280,490
City of Hull	223,091	192,955.90	416,047
City of Leicester	241,378	208,772.63	450,151
City of London	50,000	50,000.00	100,000

Table of allocations per year to local authorities for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08

£

Local authority	YOF allocation per year	YCF allocation per year	YOF and YCF per year
City of Nottingham	231,358	200,105.99	431,464
City of Peterborough	123,981	107,233.79	231,215
City of Plymouth	159,348	137,823.25	297,171
City of Westminster	157,158	135,929.34	293,087
City of York	90,000	69,912.57	159,913
Cornwall	256,115	221,519.03	477,634
Coventry	214,196	185,262.75	399,459
Croydon	207,844	179,768.19	387,612
Cumbria	271,355	234,700.23	506,055
Darlington	90,000	65,000.00	155,000
Derbyshire	391,437	338,561.54	729,999
Devon	341,318	295,212.79	636,531
Doncaster	209,390	181,105.21	390,495
Dorset	186,054	160,922.10	346,976
Dudley	189,404	163,818.91	353,223
Durham	310,020	268,142.35	578,162
Ealing	176,409	152,579.60	328,989
East Riding of Yorks	158,565	137,146.11	295,711
East Sussex	273,003	236,125.45	509,128
Enfield	195,755	169,312.60	365,068
Essex	709,672	613,809.46	1,323,481
Gateshead	107,193	92,713.20	199,906
Gloucestershire	291,418	252,053.51	543,472
Greenwich	208,487	180,324.59	388,812
Hackney	160,908	139,172.64	300,081
Halton	94,864	82,049.90	176,914
Hammersmith and Fulham	101,406	87,707.95	189,114
Hampshire	594,273	513,998.20	1,108,271
Haringey	185,315	160,282.90	345,598
Harrow	115,622	100,003.62	215,626
Hartlepool	90,000	65,000.00	155,000
Havering	122,809	106,219.53	229,029
Herefordshire	90,000	75,973.45	165,973
Hertfordshire	596,706	516,103.02	1,112,809
Hillingdon	192,877	166,822.83	359,700
Hounslow	145,726	126,041.38	271,767
Isle of Wight	90,000	72,266.94	162,267
Isles of Scilly	50,000	50,000.00	100,000
Islington	136,353	117,934.56	254,288
Kensington and Chelsea	131,229	113,502.35	244,731
Kent	734,395	635,192.89	1,369,588
Kingston Upon Thames	90,000	72,201.15	162,201
Kirklees	229,587	198,574.50	428,162
Knowsley	138,142	119,481.66	257,624
Lambeth	164,633	142,394.14	307,027
Lancashire	657,899	569,030.20	1,226,929
Leeds	495,926	428,936.52	924,863
Leicestershire	325,861	281,843.75	607,705
Lewisham	197,690	170,985.75	368,676
Lincolnshire	339,879	293,968.32	633,847
Liverpool	431,696	373,382.85	805,079

Table of allocations per year to local authorities for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08

£

Local authority	YOF allocation per year	YCF allocation per year	YOF and YCF per year
Luton	130,397	112,783.10	243,180
Manchester	344,728	298,162.26	642,890
Medway	150,215	129,923.79	280,139
Merton	114,423	98,966.96	213,390
Middlesbrough	133,666	115,610.61	249,277
Milton Keynes	131,247	113,518.43	244,765
Newcastle upon Tyne	179,521	155,270.96	334,792
Newham	200,779	173,657.75	374,437
Norfolk	422,596	365,511.70	788,108
North East Lincolnshire	127,322	110,123.02	237,445
North Lincolnshire	96,206	83,210.41	179,416
North Somerset	97,642	84,452.53	182,095
North Tyneside	111,261	96,232.19	207,493
North Yorkshire	282,922	244,704.76	527,627
Northamptonshire	377,607	326,599.55	704,207
Northumberland	179,810	155,521.36	335,331
Nottinghamshire	457,275	395,506.28	852,781
Oldham	160,431	138,759.77	299,191
Oxfordshire	346,201	299,436.40	645,637
Poole	90,000	65,000.00	155,000
Portsmouth	127,300	110,104.17	237,404
Reading	90,685	78,435.04	169,120
Redbridge	132,434	114,545.16	246,979
Redcar and Cleveland	108,021	93,429.47	201,450
Richmond Upon Thames	90,965	78,677.65	169,643
Rochdale	145,340	125,707.09	271,047
Rotherham	178,187	154,117.84	332,305
Rutland	50,000	50,000.00	100,000
Salford	161,247	139,465.91	300,713
Sandwell	235,109	203,350.34	438,459
Sefton	173,084	149,703.44	322,787
Sheffield	329,686	285,151.79	614,838
Shropshire	143,746	124,328.65	268,075
Slough	90,000	66,359.32	156,359
Solihull	127,951	110,667.38	238,618
Somerset	267,571	231,427.80	498,999
South Gloucestershire	132,957	114,997.05	247,954
South Tyneside	110,581	95,643.58	206,225
Southampton	138,641	119,912.96	258,554
Southend on Sea	94,308	81,568.80	175,877
Southwark	221,756	191,800.96	413,557
St. Helens	118,976	102,905.11	221,881
Staffordshire	451,419	390,441.20	841,860
Stockport	160,023	138,407.29	298,430
Stockton on Tees	130,962	113,271.64	244,234
Stoke on Trent	159,133	137,637.60	296,771
Suffolk	342,823	296,514.58	639,338
Sunderland	200,855	173,723.80	374,579
Surrey	588,104	508,662.65	1,096,767
Sutton	114,350	98,903.71	213,254

Table of allocations per year to local authorities for the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) for the period 2006-08

£

Local authority	YOF allocation per year	YCF allocation per year	YOF and YCF per year
Swindon	111,219	96,195.83	207,415
Tameside	150,922	130,535.32	281,457
Telford and Wrekin	103,299	89,345.36	192,644
Thurrock	90,798	78,533.04	169,331
Torbay	90,000	65,000.00	155,0
Tower Hamlets	212,204	183,539.40	395,743
Trafford	107,647	93,105.85	200,753
Wakefield	196,387	169,859.43	366,246
Walsall	209,888	181,536.45	391,424
Waltham Forest	172,766	149,429.16	322,195
Wandsworth	146,446	126,664.20	273,110
Warrington	101,789	88,039.42	189,828
Warwickshire	265,357	229,512.86	494,870
West Berkshire	90,000	75,507.60	165,508
West Sussex	389,043	336,491.09	725,534
Wigan	189,634	164,018.51	353,653
Wiltshire	216,055	186,870.06	402,925
Windsor and Maidenhead	90,000	70,904.61	160,905
Wirral	210,472	182,041.08	392,513
Wokingham	90,000	72,720.63	162,721
Wolverhampton	175,812	152,063.15	327,875
Worcestershire	282,374	244,230.79	526,605
Total	30,750,000	26,500,000	57,250,000

Note:
£250,000 for each year for evaluation of YOF and YCF

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schemes have been funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund, broken down by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* type. [128263]

Mr. Dhanda: The Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) have only been available to local authorities from April 2006. A total of £115 million is available for both funds over 2006-08.

We do not hold centrally information on the types of schemes the Youth Opportunity Fund is funding. We are currently in the process of collating data on the numbers of projects and the young people involved in the funds for the first year of funding 2006-07. This information will be available after the end of the financial year, when reports have been received from LAs.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much of the Youth Opportunities Fund remains *(a)* uncommitted and *(b)* unspent for (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [128264]

Mr. Dhanda: A total of £115 million is available through the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds over the period 2006-08. A total of £57.5 million is available in each of the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. All the funds for 2006-07 and 2007-08 have been allocated to local authorities. In 2006-07, £170,179 was withheld at the request of four authorities who indicated they would not be able to spend their full allocation.

It is not possible for the £170,179 under spend to be reallocated at this stage of the year.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many deaths in the East Riding of Yorkshire alcohol was cited as the primary cause in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [129700]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking in how many deaths in the East Riding of Yorkshire alcohol was cited as the primary cause in each of the last five years. (129700)

The table below provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authority from 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1]. East Riding of Yorkshire unitary authority[2], 2001 to 2005[3]—Deaths (persons)

	Number
2001	24
2002	19
2003	29
2004	24
2005	29

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.
[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Business: Migrant Workers

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of UK businesses that employ migrant workers. [129180]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of businesses that employ migrant workers. (129180)

The information requested is not available.

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2032W, on the Child Trust Fund, how many children born in each quarter since April 2005 are in receipt of child benefit, live in the UK and are not subject to any immigration restrictions. [128452]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of children for whom child benefit was claimed at 30 November 2006, who live in the UK and are not subject to any immigration restrictions, by the quarter and year in which they were born.

Number of children for whom child benefit was claimed: November 2006

Birth date	Thousand Number of children
September 2002 to March 2005	1,780
April to June 2005	176
July to September 2005	182
October to December 2005	171
January to March 2006	172
April to June 2006	174
July to September 2006	175

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many members his Department's Budget, Tax and Welfare Comprehensive Spending Review co-ordination team had in February 2007; [128360]

(2) why his Department's Budget, Tax and Welfare Comprehensive Spending Review co-ordination team does not appear on the latest Treasury Organisation chart; [128364]

(3) on what date he established his Department's Budget, Tax and Welfare CSR co-ordination team. [128485]

John Healey: This temporary team existed from March 2006 to February 2007, when it had one member.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many candidates applied for the new position on his Council of Economic Advisers that Gila Sacks now holds; [128370]

(2) what the process is for *(a)* advertising and recruiting and *(b)* selecting and interviewing candidates for his Council of Economic Advisers. [128371]

John Healey: The appointment of special advisers is conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Gila Sacks

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Gila Sacks has replaced another member of his Council of Economic Advisers. [128369]

John Healey: Gila Sacks did not replace another member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Insurance Companies: Ethics

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what complaints his Department has received on the ethical standards of the insurance industry. [128956]

Ed Balls: The Treasury receives correspondence relating to a wide range of issues. I am not aware of any recent letters to the Treasury on the ethical standards of the insurance industry.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for regulating the insurance industry. The FSA's Principles for Business place high-level responsibilities on regulated firms to, among other things, act with integrity and to treat their customers fairly. Additionally, the FSA's Threshold Conditions set down the minimum standards for becoming and remaining authorised, including that the firm is 'fit and proper' to conduct authorised business.

Planning Gain Supplement

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of revenue from planning gain supplement from developments in London he plans to be allocated to the Greater London Authority. [128637]

John Healey: Budget 2007 announced that the Government propose that either the Mayor of London or one of his functional bodies would directly receive the regional share of PGS revenues for infrastructure to deliver the objectives identified in the London Plan. As in other regions, the expectation is that transport would be the focus of spending in the short term.

Stamp Duties

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of home buyers in 1996-97 paid *(a)* nought and *(b)* 1 per cent. stamp duty; [128641]

(2) what proportion of home buyers in the last year for which figures are available paid *(a)* nought, *(b)* one, *(c)* three and *(d)* 4 per cent. stamp duty. [128642]

Mr. Timms: The following table gives the estimated numbers and percentage of residential property transactions in England and Wales falling into each stamp duty band in 1996-97. Figures for the UK are not available for this year.

Price range (£)	Stamp duty rate (percentage)	Number of residential property transactions (000)	Percentage of residential transactions
0 to 60,000	0	698	59
60,001 +	1	482	41

The following table gives the estimated percentage of residential property transactions in the UK falling into each stamp duty band in 2005-06:

Stamp duty land tax rate (percentage)	Number of residential property transactions (000)	Percentage of residential transactions paying tax at rate
0	784	48
1	640	39
3	179	11
4	39	2

The 0 per cent. band includes residential transactions involving considerations over £120,000 which were relieved from stamp duty land tax due to disadvantaged area relief.

Treasury Board

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of his Department's managing directors attended the Treasury Board's last away day; [128359]

(2) on what date his Department's Director of Operations was appointed to the Treasury Board; [128361]

(3) what changes have been made to the Treasury Board since 1 February 2007; [128362]

(4) on what date it was decided that all managing directors would become members of the Treasury Board; [128363]

(5) on what date his Department first placed a summary of the Treasury Board's four meetings in 2006-07 on his Department's website; [128365]

(6) if he will publish on his Departmental website minutes from the HM Treasury Executive Committee; [128372]

(7) pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2236W, on the Treasury Board, which Treasury Director sat on the Treasury Board prior to Michael Ellam's appointment; [128454]

(8) pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2236W, on the Treasury Board, if he will place in the Library full minutes of the four meetings of the Treasury Board that have taken place in 2006-07 and of which summaries have been placed on his Department's website. [128456]

John Healey: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rayleigh on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2236W.

No changes have been made to the Treasury Board since 1 February 2007.

Managing Directors attend Treasury Board meetings as a matter of course. Managing Director posts have always been at board level. The post of Director of Operations has attended the Board since its creation. The post of Director of Policy and Planning was created in July 2004 and became a full member of this Board in July 2005.

Details of individual postholders have been provided in the department's annual reports.

There is no body known as the HM Treasury Executive Committee.

Valuation Office

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 734W, on the Valuation Office Agency, and the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1328W, for what reasons the automated valuation model is not defined as a full computer-assisted mass appraisal system. [128539]

Dawn Primarolo: An automated valuation model is one component of a fully integrated computer-assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) system. The latter would include, for example, a geographic information system, which the Valuation Office Agency does not have.

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the most recent version of the advice given to the Valuation Office Agency staff on health and safety in the field, including guidance on surveying equipment. [128636]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 23 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 531W. There has been no update to the document since it was placed in the Library.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role his Department plans in the vcashpoint scheme organised by the National Youth Volunteering Organisation. [128894]

Dawn Primarolo: The national youth volunteering organisation, v, is funded with up to £100 million, including a fund available to match contributions from business. As part of the match fund, HM Treasury allocated £0.5 million for v for the vcashpoint scheme in 2006-07, matching the equivalent contribution from HSBC.

HM Treasury plays no other role in relation to vcashpoint.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was written off by the Tax Credit Office in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06. [128925]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1559-60W to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes).

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister what the total cost was of refurbishment and repairs to *(a)* 10 Downing street and *(b)* the whole Downing street complex in each year since 2004-05. [128900]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on Monday 12 March, *Official Report*, column 97W.

Departments: Publicity

Mike Penning: To ask the Prime Minister what his Office's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128069]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) on Wednesday 21 March, *Official Report*, column 957W.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister how many meetings he held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128751]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Iraq: Casualties

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Prime Minister if he will meet representatives of servicemen and women from Iraq and Afghanistan and the families of the bereaved to discuss their treatment under the military covenant. [129027]

The Prime Minister: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 36W.

In addition, I refer my right hon. Friend to the answers I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) and the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) at Prime Minister's questions on Wednesday 14 March, *Official Report*, columns 280-81.

HEALTH

Abortion: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls in the *(a)* Peterborough City Council area and *(b)* the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust area (i) under 15 years of age and (ii) aged between 15 and 18 years of age had abortions in each year between 1997 and 2005; and if she will make a statement. [128203]

Caroline Flint: The available information is set out in the following tables.

Abortions to women aged under 20[1], residents of Peterborough primary care trusts (PCTs)[2], 2002-05

		under 16	16-17	18-19
2002	North Peterborough PCT	[3]1	27	43
2002	South Peterborough PCT	[3]3	20	29

		under 18	18-19
2003	North Peterborough PCT	38	47
2003	South Peterborough PCT	28	22
2004	North Peterborough PCT	30	41
2004	South Peterborough PCT	26	37
2005	North Peterborough PCT	37	41
2005	South Peterborough PCT	27	30

Notes:

[1] Data have previously been published in the above format. We are unable break the data down by age under 15 and 15-18 as this, in turn, would reveal small numbers (0-9 cases). This is in line with ONS guidance published in 2005.

[2] PCTs for North Peterborough and South Peterborough are the nearest available areas to Peterborough city council area and the Peterborough and Stamford hospitals NHS foundation trust as data are published by PCT of the woman's residence. Prior to 2002 there were no data published relating specifically to Peterborough.

[3] Totals less than 10 are already published.

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Committee on Toxicity investigating contaminated air events plans to carry out a full scale epidemiological survey of UK airline crews. [127316]

Caroline Flint: The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment is considering a review of published epidemiological surveys at its meeting on 20 March 2007.

The relevant papers can be found on the internet at:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/cotnonfood/index.htm

www.food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/toxicity/

Copies have been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis via accident and emergency departments involving children under the age of 18 years there were in *(a)* the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority area, *(b)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area, *(c)* the West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust area and *(d)* the Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997. [127620]

Caroline Flint: The following table shows the number of all diagnosis count of finished in-year admission episodes for children aged 17 and under, admitted via accident and emergency (A&E) departments for an alcohol related illness, by patients, primary care trust (PCT)/strategic health authority (SHA) of residence and West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust covering the period 1997-98 to 2005-06. This is the latest data available.

Admission method: emergency: via A&E services, including the casualty department of the provider, or Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another provider

	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA of residence	*East of England SHA area of residence*[1]	*Suffolk PCT area of residence*[2]	*West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust*
1997-98	208	467	58	17
1998-99	188	410	55	8
1999-2000	212	487	57	16
2000-01	207	432	66	18
2001-02	196	458	83	18
2002-03	196	440	61	15
2003-04	235	498	83	29
2004-05	258	538	85	37
2005-06	242	485	50	22

[1] East of England SHA area includes the following:
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA;
Essex SHA; and
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA.
[2] Suffolk PCT area includes the following:
Suffolk Coastal PCT;
Ipswich PCT;
Central Suffolk PCT; and
Suffolk West PCT.

Notes:
Finished in-year admissions.
A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
PCT and SHA data quality
PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
All diagnoses count of episodes
These figures represent a count of all finished in year admission episodes where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.
Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Secondary diagnoses
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (6 prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
Alcohol related diagnoses: ICD-10 codes
F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol;
K70 Alcoholic liver disease;
T51 Toxic effect of alcohol
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 200 NHS PCTs in England. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what trials were conducted in the UK between 1984 and 1986 to ascertain the efficacy of heat treatment for *(a)* commercial and *(b)* non-commercial VIII blood products; and if she will make a statement. [128427]

Caroline Flint: Heat-treated Factor VIII and Factor IX produced by Bio Products Laboratory (BPL) in the mid 1980s were evaluated in several haemophilia centres in England and Wales. The results from these studies have been published by the investigators in medical journals.

BPL developed 8Y in 1985 and studies on the efficacy of BPL's heat treatment undertaken after 1986 showed that the process was very efficacious. Clinical trials and laboratory studies reported in 1985 had previously demonstrated the safety and clinical efficacy of the heat-treated product made by the Plasma Fractionation Laboratory of Churchill hospital Oxford, which was destined to become the BPL heat treated factor VIII product (8Y).

The report "Self Sufficiency in Blood Products in England and Wales" provides a section on heat treatment which contains information on trials undertaken by a number of commercial companies. The supporting references are all in the public domain.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the Department's internal audit report referred to in the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1742W, on destroyed documents/blood products; and if she will make a statement; [128429]

(2) by what date she expects her Department to finish its identification and review of all the documents currently held relating to the safety of blood products between 1970 and 1985; and if she will make a statement. [128430]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 19 March 2007]*: The report on the internal review of documents held by the Department relating to the safety of blood products between 1970 and 1985 is being finalised. This report will also take account of missing documents. We expect to complete the report shortly, and a copy will be placed in the Library.

The internal audit report will be referenced in the internal review of documents and we will make all reference documents available.

Alcoholic Drinks: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related hospital admittances there were in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [125173]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table.

All diagnosis count of finished in year admission episodes for alcohol-related diagnoses for patients with a PCT of residence in Lancashire for 1996-1997 to 2005-06—diagnosis codes F10 Mental and Behavioural Disorders Due to Use of Alcohol; K70 Alcoholic Liver Disease; T51 Toxic Effect of Alcohol—NHS hospitals, England

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Morecambe Bay PCT	859	668	504	664	746	928	1,175	1,364	1,408	1,532
Wyre PCT	128	149	189	201	154	219	214	206	281	319
Blackpool PCT	338	531	563	638	402	608	646	660	707	865
Fylde PCT	97	140	138	112	101	147	167	172	182	187
Preston PCT	752	763	673	859	795	896	800	726	740	889
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	217	274	271	274	271	297	254	262	520	462
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT	707	844	942	997	1,065	1,344	1,033	1,212	1,361	1,256
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching PCT	386	491	433	477	390	426	446	468	808	726
Chorley and South Ribble PCT	663	738	679	811	737	806	844	771	710	985
West Lancashire PCT	266	253	266	300	287	297	323	436	375	482
Total	4,413	4,851	4,658	5,333	4,948	5,968	5,902	6,277	7,092	7,703

Notes:

1. Finished in-year admissions

A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data-year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment are poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 are also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

2. All diagnoses count of episodes

These figures represent a count of all finished in year admission episodes where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.

3. Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

4. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations she has received on the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine Gardasil; whether her Department has conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of new vaccines to tackle HPV; and if she will make a statement. [127518]

Caroline Flint: There have been about 25 representations received regarding the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, Gardasil.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is in the process of thoroughly examining the vaccine safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness evidence concerning HPV vaccines. The work is being taken forward by a sub-group of JCVI, with further work ongoing to evaluate whether the vaccine is considered to be a cost-effective prevention of cervical cancer; and the impact that HPV vaccine may have on genital warts.

The sub group's advice will be reported to the main JCVI committee for further discussion.

No decisions will be taken on introducing these vaccines into the immunisation programme until JCVI has presented its advice to Ministers for their consideration.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many faecal occult blood testing kit samples have been *(a)* returned to and *(b)* analysed by each of the five national bowel cancer screening programme hubs; [129128]

(2) how many people in England have been invited to participate in the national bowel cancer screening programme; and how many have been sent a home testing kit by each of the five national bowel cancer screening programme hubs; [129129]

(3) how many local bowel cancer screening centres have begun providing endoscopy services for patients who have had a positive faecal occult blood test result; [129130]

(4) how many bowel cancers have been diagnosed through the national bowel cancer screening programme; [129131]

(5) when each of the five national bowel cancer screening programme hubs began operation; [129132]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 16 March 2007, the national health service bowel cancer screening programme had sent out 128,993 invitations for screening. Invitations are sent out one week before the testing kits, and people can opt out of receiving a testing kit if they wish.

110,608 faecal occult blood testing kits had been sent out, and 57,280 had been returned and analysed at the five programme hubs. 1,003 positive results had been recorded, and 92 cancers diagnosed. 292 patients were diagnosed with polyps which may have developed into cancer over time. Treating these polyps has reduced their risk of bowel cancer.

The five programme hubs which began operations are shown in the table.

Programme hub	*Date began operations*
West Midlands and North West (Rugby)	April 2006
Southern (Guildford)	September 2006
London (St. Mark's, Harrow)	October 2006
North East (Gateshead)	February 2007
Eastern (Nottingham)	March 2007

15 local screening centres are now operational and are shown in the table.

Local screening centre	*Date began operations*
Wolverhampton	July 2006
Norwich	July 2006
Liverpool	September 2006
South Devon	September 2006
St. Mark's, Harrow	October 2006
South West London	November 2006
Gloucestershire	January 2007
Bolton	February 2007
South Tyne	February 2007
Tees	February 2007
Hull	February 2007
Heart of England	March 2007
Inner North East London	March 2007
University college London	March 2007
Derbyshire	March 2007

It is hoped a sixteenth centre will open before the end of March 2007. This will be confirmed if and when quality and capacity criteria have been satisfied.

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff worked in dedicated complaints units in her Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have there have been in 2006-07 to date. [121676]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department established responsibility for the management of complaints about the Department within its customer service centre in September 2004.

Between 1997-98 and 2001-02 there have been no dedicated staff and complaints have been dealt with at local level.

Since February 2005, there have been two members of staff spending some of their time working on complaints.

Complaints about public consultation exercises and Freedom of Information reviews are carried out by specialist units within the Department.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Unit (PASA) has no dedicated staff or units for complaints and complaints are handled by its corporate affairs unit.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) had no staff working in dedicated complaints units in the Department and executive agencies in 1997-98, 2001-02, 2005-06 and 2006-07 to date.

However the MHRA has had an independent complaints adviser for the whole period to date. This person has complaints referred to them where they cannot be resolved internally to the complainant's satisfaction.

Departments: Energy

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much energy was used by her Department in each year since 2000, broken down into figures for *(a)* gas, *(b)* electricity and *(c)* vehicle fuel consumption; and what the cost was in each year in each case. [125817]

Andy Burnham: The Department's consumption and cost of energy for each year since 2000 broken down into figures for gas and electricity are shown in the following tables.

Gas: Total expenditure and consumption

	Cost (£)	*Usage (kWh)*
1999-2000	57,184	6,411,000
2000-01	78,807	6,180,000
2001-02	67,097	4,237,000
2002-03	86,367	5,268,000
2003-04	78,989	5,208,000
2004-05	115,470	5,604,000
2005-06	157,684	4,636,000

Electricity: Total expenditure and consumption

	Cost (£)	*Usage (kWh)*
1999-2000	682,983	14,081,000
2000-01	613,563	13,802,000
2001-02	632,791	13,417,000
2002-03	602,320	13,780,000
2003-04	631,337	13,913,000
2004-05	754,096	14,220,000
2005-06	911,063	13,454,000

The Department does not have a vehicle fleet and does not record details of vehicle fuel consumption.

The Government car service provides vehicles for Ministers but the Department has no record of fuel used for these vehicles.

Departments: Retirement

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees from her Department were asked to retire upon reaching 65 years of age as a result of the Department's mandatory retirement policy in each year since 1997. [121738]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From 1 October 2006, two employees have reached age 65 and elected to retire from the organisation. Before then employees retired at age 60.

Drugs: Prisons

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her predecessor's statement of 28 September 2004 on the integrated drug treatment scheme for prisons, what funding has been spent in each year since the annual £40 million budget was announced; how many and what percentage of prisoners have received drug treatment via the programme; and whether the March 2008 target for allocating effective treatment services will be met. [127241]

Caroline Flint: Implementation of the integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) commenced in 2006.

The current year's investment in IDTS totals £17 million. This comprises £12 million from the Department and £5 million from the Home Office. This will fund IDTS implementation in 45 prisons, allowing some 44,000 prisoners to receive treatment via the programme by March 2008.

Eastbourne Hospital

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated to Eastbourne District General Hospital for alcohol treatment services in 2007-08. [125470]

Caroline Flint: Funding for alcohol treatment services is not allocated directly to national health service acute trusts.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many casualties were admitted to Eastbourne District General Hospital due to drink-related injuries in 2006. [125492]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Eating Disorders: Research

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for the funding of research into eating disorders. [126805]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is considering whether we can undertake further research into eating disorders through the National Institute for Health Research, about which we hope to make an announcement soon.

Exercise

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much her Department spent on promoting physical activity to *(a)* children, *(b)* pensioners and *(c)* adults in each of the last five years; [129122]

(2) how much public money the Government spent on the encouragement of physical activity among the general population for public health purposes in each of the last five years; and how much is planned to be spent over the next five years. [129126]

Caroline Flint: The Department and the national health service promote the benefits of physical activity in many ways to professionals, the public and other stakeholders.

In particular, primary care trusts are required to have systematic and managed health promotion programmes, including action on exercise, that are responsive to local needs. Spending on the promotion of sport and physical recreation by the NHS is not recorded centrally.

Alongside spending by the NHS to support local delivery of physical activity programmes for adults and children, the Department has funded pilot work to inform interventions. This has included:

the local exercise action pilot scheme (LEAP), which has been jointly funded by the Department, Sport England and the Countryside Agency with an overall cost of £2.5 million between 2003 and 2006. The LEAP pilots included interventions targeted towards children, adults and older people;

a joint Department, Department for Education and Skills, and Youth Sport Trust pilot programme Schools on the Move, which includes resource materials for schools, teachers and young people to help integrate pedometers into the life of the school. The Department has invested £100,000 in the pilot during 2005 and 2006; and

a contribution of £27,000 by the Department in 2003 to a pilot initiative which distributed 10,000 Step-O-Meters to general practitioner practices in areas of high deprivation and high rates of coronary heart disease. Other funding partners were the Countryside Agency and the British Heart Foundation.

National programmes to promote physical activity arising out of this pilot work include:

the National Step-O-Meter Programme, led jointly by the Department of Health and Natural England, is training health professionals across the country in motivational interviewing and the use of pedometers as a motivational tool, and providing free pedometers for loan to their patients. The Department has invested £650,000 in this programme since 2005; and

a £494,000 school pedometer programme, distributing 40,000 pedometers to 250 schools in deprived areas to encourage children to become more active, and enabling all schools to access resources to support increased physical activity.

The Secretary of State for Health, through the section 64 general scheme of grants (s64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968), has power to make grants to voluntary organisations in England whose activities support the Department's policy priorities.

The Department has provided funding to physical activity based programmes under the section 64 scheme to the following organisations:

Sustrans;

Amateur Swimming Association;

English Federation of Disability Sport;

National Heart Forum; and

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

For the coming year, the Department intends to spend £1.6 million on increasing physical activity. Spending allocations for the years after 2007-08 have yet to be finalised.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the inter-ministerial group on physical activity last met; and what *(a)* activity it has undertaken and *(b)* progress it has made. [129133]

Caroline Flint: The inter-ministerial group on physical activity, chaired by Caroline Flint, last met on 5 February 2007. Caroline Flint has also held bilaterals with participating Ministers.

The group has collated information on what each Department has achieved, and reviewed the gaps and obstacles to local delivery.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to encourage and facilitate higher levels of physical activity by people in everyday life. [129134]

Caroline Flint: "Choosing Activity: a physical activity action plan", published on 9 March 2005, sets out 99 actions across Government to promote physical activity among children, in the community, in workplaces, and in the NHS.

Government implementation of Choosing Activity includes:

In December 2006, the Department, Sport England and Natural England published recommendations to support the local commissioning of physical activity interventions. These were based on the findings of the local exercise action pilots (LEAP), which demonstrated that physical activity interventions are cost-effective and can save the NHS money in the long-term by reducing ill-health. LEAP has also shown that it is possible to engage a broad range of people, and to increase physical activity levels.

The National Step-O-Meter Programme, a joint programme across the Department and Natural England, is training health professionals across the country in motivational interviewing and the use of pedometers as a motivational tool, and providing free pedometers for loan to their patients. To date 4,000 primary care health professionals, across 220 PCTs (pre-reconfiguration) have been trained in motivational behaviour change.

To support the above programmes, the Department has developed a simple tool, the general practice physical activity questionnaire (GPPAQ) for routine use in general practice to help health professionals decide when advice and interventions to increase physical activity might be appropriate to offer a patient.

A school pedometer programme, distributing 40,000 pedometers to 250 schools in deprived areas to encourage children to become more active, and enabling all schools to access resources to support increased physical activity.

It is a requirement since 2005 for all schools participating in the National Healthy Schools programme to meet criteria for physical activity.

The Department for Transport are rolling out the new national standard for cycle training, Bikeability, from spring 2007, with the aim that by 2009 half of all year six pupils in England will be trained through schemes awarding the new standard.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will require the Food Standards Agency to press for more robust food labelling standards; and what work is being undertaken on standardisation of labelling across the EU. [127579]

Caroline Flint: Food labelling legislation is already largely harmonised within the European Union. The European Commission is currently conducting a review of this legislation, and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is representing the United Kingdom in preparatory experts' group meetings in Brussels. UK policy lines are being developed by the FSA through consultation with stakeholders and other Government Departments. The Commission does not expect to submit a draft proposal, to Council and the European Parliament, before the end of 2007.

Health Professions: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much it costs to train *(a)* a nurse and *(b)* a doctor to the point of full registration. [126539]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information for England on the average cost of training each nurse and doctor for the entire period between entering onto a degree or diploma course until full registration, inclusive of tuition, bursary and salary support costs are given in the following table.

Staff group	*2005-06 cost (£)*
Nurse diploma (bursaried)	40,225
Nurse degree (bursaried)	28,410
Nurse secondee (salaried)	61,255
Doctor	200,000-250,000

Source:
Financial and Workforce Information Return (FWIR) November 2004 and NHS Student Grant Unit for nurse bursaries.

In the period between entry to medical school and full registration, it is estimated that training a doctor costs between £200,000 and £250,000. Doctors generally continue training after full registration. As the duration and nature of post-registration training varies greatly, and as service and training costs are closely related, it is not possible to provide a meaningful estimate of the total cost of training.

Health Services: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much money was spent in Lancashire on anti-obesity initiatives in each of the last 10 years; [125673]

(2) how much money was spent in Lancashire on anti-alcohol initiatives in each of the last 10 years; [125674]

(3) how much money was spent in Lancashire on anti-smoking initiatives in each of the last 10 years. [125675]

Caroline Flint: Information on spending by national health service organisations on particular areas is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing health services to meet the needs of their local population, including services to tackle obesity, alcohol misuse and smoking. The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to PCTs separately identify £211 million nationally in 2006-07 and £342 million nationally in 2007-08 to support implementation of the "Choosing Health" White Paper. This funding has been targeted on the most deprived areas to support the delivery of some of the commitments in the "Choosing Health" White Paper. This will enable PCTs to deliver various initiatives including action on diet, activity and obesity, alcohol interventions and NHS stop smoking services. Revenue allocations to commissioning organisations in Lancashire, PCTs and previously health authorities, are shown in the tables.

The tables show the revenue allocations made to PCTs in Lancashire for the two allocations rounds 2006-07 to 2007-08 and 2003-04 to 2005-06.

2006-07 and 2007-08 PCT revenue allocations

Organisation name	*2006-07 allocation (£ million)*	*2007-08 allocation (£ million)*	*Two-year increase (£ million)*	*Two-year increase (Percentage)*
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	207.7	227.2	37.4	19.7
Blackpool PCT	213.8	232.5	36.6	18.7
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT	339.6	371.2	60.9	19.6
Chorley and South Ribble PCT	242.7	266.7	44.3	19.9
Fylde PCT	88.0	95.2	13.9	17.1
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	152.3	166.5	27.3	19.6
Morecambe Bay PCT	404.4	438.5	66.2	17.8
Preston PCT	191.7	207.0	30.2	17.1
West Lancashire PCT	136.4	149.4	24.5	19.6
Wyre PCT	159.0	174.8	29.1	20.0

2003-04 to 2005-06 PCT revenue allocations

Organisation name	*2003-04 allocation (£ million)*	*2004-05 allocation (£ million)*	*2005-06 allocation (£ million)*	*Three-year increase (£ million)*	*Three-year increase (Percentage)*
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	143.9	155.3	175.3	43.7	33.1
Blackpool PCT	151.9	166.7	182.1	42.7	30.7
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT	241.3	265.0	289.6	68.4	30.9
Chorley and South Ribble PCT	171.7	188.2	205.5	47.7	30.3
Fylde PCT	64.0	69.7	75.6	16.6	28.1
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	103.9	114.1	124.7	29.5	31.0
Morecambe Bay PCT	289.9	316.3	344.2	76.8	28.7
Preston PCT	142.0	154.7	167.9	36.8	28.1
West Lancashire PCT	97.1	106.4	116.2	27.0	30.3
Wyre PCT	112.8	123.5	134.7	30.9	29.8

Health Authorities

Revenue allocations were made direct to PCTs, for the first time in 2003-04. Prior to this, revenue allocations were made to health authorities (HA). The allocations made to the health authorities in Lancashire for the period 1996-97 to 2002-03 are provided in the following table.

Revenue allocations 1996-97 to 2002-03, Lancashire health authorities

Allocation (£ million)

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
East Lancashire HA	230.8	240.7	253.1	349.9	384.2	416.7	461.1
Morecambe Bay HA	139.7	145.3	151.7	203.7	224.1	243.0	268.4
North West Lancashire HA	214.0	223.1	234.4	321.6	352.1	382.9	424.1
South Lancashire HA	127.0	133.5	138.4	183.8	206.2	223.3	247.2

Health Services: Prisons

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of information and communication technologies infrastructure in the prison medical service with regard to the clinical information and support available; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of such infrastructure as compared to that available to doctors working in *(a)* general practice and *(b)* elsewhere within the NHS. [127642]

Caroline Flint: Our overall aim is to ensure that national health service professionals working with offenders have access to similar clinical information systems and services as those in the rest of the NHS in order to improve the quality of patient care and support system reform.

The great majority of health professionals working in prisons have no specialist information management and technology support, and the task of developing and providing prison establishments with appropriate clinical information technology (IT) hardware and software has always been recognised as an integral corollary of the transfer of health care responsibility from the Home Office to this Department from April 2006. Within the Department, the provision of strategic IT systems is undertaken by the NHS Connecting for Health (NHS CfH) agency as a part of the wider national programme for IT in the NHS.

Planning is under way to extend compliant primary care systems to support prison healthcare. Mental health and limited secondary care functionality will be added at a later date as applications become available. The first practical step to achieving this goal is in the form of providing the necessary connectivity to the N3 network in the prison estate. This has two aspects: providing broadband connections to prison establishments, and developing a network infrastructure within establishments. In December 2006, £3 million was specifically allocated through strategic health authorities to enhance prison health care IT infrastructure, with the majority of work due to complete this month. NHS CfH is liaising with the prison service and primary care trusts to oversee implementation of this phase of the programme, based on local costed plans.

Health: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has spent on the Small Change, Big Difference initiative. [129123]

Caroline Flint: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 11 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 702-03W.

Hospital Beds: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were in acute hospitals serving Tamworth constituency in the last 12 months. [128329]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of delayed transfers of care from acute beds at the Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals National Health Service Trust within the last 12 months is shown in the following table.

Month	*Delayed transfers of care*
2006	
March	2
April	4
May	2
June	5
July	1
August	1
September	9
October	10
November	5
December	9
2007	
January	5
February	7

Note:
Numbers of delayed transfers of care are collected as a snapshot at midnight Thursday each week. These data are snapshots taken in the final week of each month.
Source:
Department of Health SitReps

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of poultry workers which were immunised against seasonal influenza in the latest period for which figures are available. [123128]

Caroline Flint: The programme to offer seasonal flu vaccine to poultry workers started on 22 January and runs until 31 March.

As of 21 March, preliminary vaccine uptake data indicate 1,000 poultry workers from 42 primary care trusts have been vaccinated.

Final vaccine uptake data will be collected in mid April.

Maternity Services: Manpower

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* midwives and *(b)* obstetricians were employed in the NHS in each year since 1995. [126169]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent medical staff in the obstetrics and gynaecology specialities and registered midwives in each year since 1995.

NHS hospital and community health services: Medical staff in the obstetrics and gynaecology specialties and midwifery staff in England as at 30 September each specified year

Full-time equivalent

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Obstetrics and gynaecology	3,406	3,540	3,608	3,685	3,684	3,677	3,711	3,893	4,069	4,286	4,580
Registered midwives	18,034	18,262	18,053	18,168	17,876	17,662	18,048	18,119	18,444	18,854	18,949

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Medicine: Training

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which NHS positions applicants who are unsuccessful in the ST1-4 application process are subsequently eligible to apply for. [124720]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Applicants who are unsuccessful in securing a place on a specialty training programme may apply for a fixed-term specialty training appointment which may also count towards the completion of training. Doctors are also free to apply for non-training posts as career grade or service doctors which are advertised by individual national health service trusts. Those who do not obtain places in specialty training programmes will be able to re-apply for such programmes as vacancies arise in future.

Mental Health Services: Surveys

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish the findings of the Count Me In Census 2006. [129124]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Healthcare Commission is responsible for publication of the Count Me In Census.

Mid-Essex Hospital Trust: Hospital Beds

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were in the Mid-Essex hospital trust area in each month since January 2005. [127984]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The following table shows the number of delayed transfers of care from acute beds at Mid-Essex Hospital Services National Health Service Trust in each month since January 2005.

Month	*Delayed transfers of care*
2005	
January	27
February	26
March	18
April	12
May	8
June	8
July	14
August	2
September	17
October	11
November	9
December	11
2006	
January	10
February	9
March	6
April	8
May	8
June	10
July	6
August	21
September	7
October	5
November	16
December	14
2007	
January	14
February	9

Note:
The number of delayed transfers of care are collected as a snapshot at midnight Thursday each week. These data are snapshots taken in the final week of each month.
Source:
Department of Health Sitreps

Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust: Redundancy

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many compulsory redundancies there have been in financial year 2006-07 in the Mid Essex hospital trust. [127532]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* There have been 32 compulsory redundancies in the Mid Essex hospital trust up to December 2006; 25 of these posts were non-clinical.

Midwives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average case load was of full-time equivalent registered community midwives in each of the last 12 years for which figures are available; [127282]

(2) what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the size of the caseload of community midwives; and whether her Department has issued advice on the appropriate *(a)* average, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* maximum caseload for community midwives; [127283]

(3) how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount-registered midwife posts carried the

requirement of working in both acute and community settings in each of the last 12 years for which records are available; [127284]

(4) in how many *(a)* acute trusts, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* other NHS trusts have (i) acute and (ii) community midwives been required to work in both acute and community settings. [127285]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally and we have not carried out an assessment of, or provided advice about, the size of case loads. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to commission midwifery services in order to meet local needs.

Motor Neurone Disease: Research

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations she has received on funding for motor neurone disease (MND) research; whether her Department has conducted an assessment into the effectiveness of MND research; and if she will make a statement. [127517]

Caroline Flint: The Department has received a number of representations on this subject, mostly from or prompted by the Motor Neurone Disease Association. The response to them has described the nature and level of Government investment in research into the disease, and the fact that the Dementias and Neurodegenerative Disease Network will give patients from every motor neurone disease clinic in England the opportunity to take part in national clinical trials.

The reliability and validity of outputs from research funded by the Department, including research designed to support policy development, implementation and evaluation, are subject to independent peer review. The national service framework for long-term neurological conditions was informed by specially commissioned research, and its impact is being assessed via a £1 million research initiative.

Note:

Dementias and Neurodegenerative Disease Network was launched in September 2005 as part of the United Kingdom clinical research network.

NHS: Public Participation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the Race Equality Impact Assessment for local involvement networks. [129127]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An assessment of the impact of local involvement networks on race equality was published as part of the regulatory impact assessment that accompanied the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. Copies are available in the Library and on the Department of Communities and Local Government website.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to defer the final implementation date of the 48-hour working week to 2012 as referred to in the answer of 21 May 2003 to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell, *Official Report*, column 86?W, on the working time directive. [125027]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The vast majority of national health service staff have been covered by the European Working Time Directive since 1998. The Government negotiated a staged implementation timetable for doctors in training and is funding pilot projects across the NHS to help trusts implement the 48-hour week from August 2009. Approximately 40 per cent. of doctors in training already work a 48-hour week.

We are monitoring evidence of NHS readiness for fully implementing the 48-hour week for doctors in training. This will inform our assessment of whether to approach the European Commission to use the 2012 derogation to support particular services or specialties.

Nurses: Gender

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of those working as nurses in England are *(a)* female and *(b)* male. [125863]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The September 2005 national health service workforce census showed 89 per cent. of qualified nurses, midwives and health visiting staff in England were female and 11 per cent. were male.

Nurses: Pay

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses she expects to receive a pay increase of 1.9 per cent. in the next 12 months. [126906]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All nurses employed by the national health service will receive a staged pay award for 2007-08. This will consist of an uplift of 1.5 per cent. from 1 April 2007 and a further 1 per cent. from 1 November 2007. In addition, many nurses will also receive an increase typically between 3 and 4 per cent. during the year as they progress up their pay scales, and others will receive a pay increase on promotion. The 2005 NHS workforce census, published in April 2006, shows that at September 2005 there were 404,161 nursing, midwifery and healthcare visiting staff employed by the NHS in England. The results of the 2006 NHS workforce census will be published shortly.

Nurses: Vacancies

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the numbers of nursing vacancies there are expected to be in the NHS at the end of August 2007. [125861]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made an estimate of the number of nursing vacancies expected in the national health service at the end of August 2007.

The March 2007 vacancy survey due to be carried out at the end of this month will provide us with a snapshot of the current nursing three-month vacancy situation.

Nutrition

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people are employed by her Department to work on strategies designed to encourage underweight people to eat more; [127843]

(2) how many people are employed by her Department to work on strategies designed to encourage obese people to eat less. [127844]

Caroline Flint: Government advice for maintaining a healthy weight is for people to consume a healthy balanced diet and be physically active. The Department's nutrition and obesity teams, working with the Food Standards Agency and other Government Departments, has a series of initiatives to encourage and support people to eat a diet that is high in fruit and vegetables and lower in saturated fat, salt and sugar.

Obesity is a complex, multi-factorial problem that cannot be attributed to any single factor; it is the imbalance between calories in and calories out. The obesity public service agreement target is jointly owned by three Government Departments covering health, education and sport in recognition that delivery will depend on a concerted, joined-up effort across Government and other key stakeholders.

Osteoporosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to discuss with interested parties the decision by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to restrict treatment for osteoporosis to those aged over 70 years; and if she will make a statement. [127581]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet published its final guidance on the use of treatments for primary and secondary prevention of fractures in post-menopausal women with osteoporosis. NICE issued an appraisal consultation document on 5 March 2007 setting out its draft recommendations and inviting comments by 26 March 2007. NICE's appraisal committee will then meet to consider consultation responses and formulate its final guidance.

NICE is an independent body and I have no plans to discuss this ongoing appraisal with interested parties.

Primary Health Care: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the Bedfordshire primary care trust and its predecessors to ensure that clinical professionals other than general practitioners receive appropriate training to carry out semi-specialist services at primary care level in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [122831]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for the primary care trusts in discussion with local general practitioners (GPs) to decide how many GPs with a specialist interest are required and how to fund any necessary training.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in Tamworth constituency were (i) tested and (ii) treated for a sexually transmitted disease in each of the last five years. [128331]

Caroline Flint: Data on sexually transmitted diseases in residents in the Tamworth constituency are not available or on the number of people tested for sexually transmitted diseases.

Data on the number of all diagnoses in genito-urinary clinics (GUM) in the South Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT), which is within the Tamworth constituency, is given in the table.

	Females	*Males*
2001	2,733	2,101
2002	2,892	2,007
2003	3,508	2,465
2004	3,921	2,930
2005	4,282	3,078

Notes:
1. Data is presented for the South Staffordshire PCT within which Tamworth constituency falls.
2. Aggregated data from five GUM clinics are presented, of which one falls within the Tamworth constituency.
3. Data is only available to December 2005.
4. The data available are from GUM clinics only, as only diagnoses made in this setting are recorded in the KC60 return. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the dataset.
5. The data available are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of treatments provided or testing performed, as those are not available.
6. The data available are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of people diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with several co-infections and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
7. The PCT referred to is the PCT where the clinic is based. This is not necessarily the PCT where the patient is resident, as GUM clinics are open access services.

Surgical Dressings

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of maggot debridement therapy in limiting the spread of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* other hospital acquired infections; and if she will make a statement. [127744]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The effectiveness of maggot debridement therapy has not been assessed specifically for meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* MRSA) or other healthcare associated infections.

However, as the use of this therapy is reasonably well established for the treatment of chronic ulcers there is no reason why it would not be considered for MRSA infected or colonised ulcers.

This therapy cannot be used for all wounds but when it is it must form part of a team response involving the infection control team (including the clinical microbiologist), the tissue viability nurse, possibly input from plastic surgeons and other clinicians with wound healing expertise. Additional treatment, including relevant systemic antibiotics, may also be necessary.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published Guidance on the use of debriding agents and specialist wound care clinics for difficult-to-heal surgical wounds in 2001. NICE has advised the national health service that the choice of

debriding agent, which includes the use of maggots for difficult to heal surgical wounds should be based on comfort; odour control; other aspects relevant to patient acceptability; the type and location of wound, and total costs.

Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1978W, on vaccination, whether her Department had a three-month stock of vaccines for the routine childhood immunisation programme on 1 March. [127922]

Caroline Flint: On 1 March, the Department had over three months stock of all vaccines used in the routine childhood immunisation programme apart from one vaccine. A delivery of this vaccine was made in the week commencing 5 March, taking its stock holding to over three months.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 23 March 2007

TRANSPORT

British Transport Police: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many British Transport Police community support officers were based in each London borough in each of the last five years. [129462]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128002]

Gillian Merron: The Department has a wide range of measures in place to ensure economical use of paper, following the broad policy of "reduce, reuse, recycle" and to meet the new targets for government on sustainable operations.

Information for the public is increasingly available electronically and a higher percentage than in previous years of new documents are web only publications. When documents are printed, then consideration is given to the types of papers used to ensure they are fit for purpose, indicating the weight and type of the paper to minimise paper use. Any printed publications are printed on 75 per cent. recycled paper. The Department for Transport also leads on the pan-Government framework for the provision of recycled paper for printed publications.

Improved IT has resulted in all the major reference manuals from finance, procurement, the staff handbook and other reference guides to be placed on the internal Intranet site with the presumption that all these reference documents are only available electronically.

From February 2003, the Department's weekly internal Bulletin has been available online, resulting in considerable paper saving as well as cost savings of £130,000 a year.

All printers purchased, unless used for specialist processes, are capable of printing on both sides of the paper. Business Units are encouraged to set this facility as the default. Photocopiers used also have this facility.

All internal stationery and printing paper purchased is 100 per cent. recycled and waste paper is recycled.

Increasingly business process, from invoicing of payments through to sickness absence recording, travel and subsistence claims, are being processed electronically.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128252]

Gillian Merron: The central Department and each agency do not keep records specifically identifying companies that only provide mail services. However, listed as follows are the companies that have provided both mail and courier services:

A1 Couriers Ltd.
Amtrak
Apollo Express Services Ltd.
Business Post (Parcels)
Capita Group Ltd.
Central Despatch Service
Dash It
DHL Global Mail
Fast Track Couriers Ltd.
Initial Citylink
Lynx Couriers
Parcel Force
Peters and May Ltd.
Quicksilver Messenger Service
Royal Mail
Streetwise Couriers
TNT Post UK Ltd.
UK Today

Railways: Fares

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the different train companies on proposals to reduce the number of saver fares on the railways; and if he will make a statement. [129009]

Mr. Tom Harris: No discussions have been held on proposals to reduce the number of saver fares. All discussions on a simplified fares structure have involved retaining and in some cases expanding the range of flexible off-peak walk-up fares such as savers.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the additional rolling stock being authorised for purchase by his Department to relieve overcrowding he plans to be used on services between Bedfordshire and London; and if he will make a statement. [128727]

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much of the additional rolling stock being authorised for purchase by his Department to relieve overcrowding he plans to be used on services between Worcestershire and London; and if he will make a statement; [128574]

(2) how much of the additional rolling stock being authorised for purchase by his Department to relieve overcrowding he plans to be used on services between Worcestershire and Birmingham; and if he will make a statement. [128772]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to say where precisely the additional rolling stock will be used. The deployment of new rolling stock will be agreed with the industry following the publication of the high-level output specification and the long-term rail strategy this summer, in accordance with the periodic review timetable set out in the Office of Rail Regulation's advice to Ministers published in February 2007.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* South West Trains to improve its performance; and if he will make a statement. [129353]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are regular discussions between Stagecoach South West Trains (SSWT) and Network Rail about performance.

SSWT has a public performance measure (PPM) moving annual average (MAA) of 89.7 per cent. (at February 2007, the last reporting period).

The Department re-let the new South Western franchise from February 2007; the new franchise agreement has an incremental increase in the performance benchmarks that SSWT will have to meet over the franchise period.

I have four-weekly Performance Delivery Group meetings with rail industry representatives to discuss rail performance. At these meetings, current performance, and steps for improvement, are examined to ensure that improving performance remains a high priority throughout the rail industry.

Road Signs and Markings

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term efficacy of interactive road signage in built-up areas for traffic calming purposes. [128992]

Dr. Ladyman: Vehicle activated signs (VAS) are designed to address the problem of inappropriate speed at locations where conventional signing has not proved effective. The majority of VAS are therefore placed in rural areas where inappropriate speed is a particular problem, such as on the approach to hazards, bends or junctions.

TRL Report 548 "Vehicle activated signs—a large scale evaluation", published in 2002 studied the effectiveness of vehicle activated signs (VAS) at over 60 sites on rural roads with a range of speed limits. This found VAS to be effective at reducing vehicle speeds at the approach to isolated hazards or bends and junctions. There was no evidence that the signs became less effective over the three-year period of the study.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Electricity

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he expects Afghanistan to increase the amount of electricity available through bilateral power purchase by the end of 2010; what progress has been made; and what progress he expects to be made by the end of the year. [127503]

Hilary Benn: The latest quarterly progress report issued by the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) indicates that considerable steps have been made towards the Afghanistan Compact benchmark of increasing the amount of electricity available through bilateral power purchase by 2010. Details of this progress, extracted from the report, are listed at Annex A. Given this, we would expect the amount of electricity available through bilateral power purchase to increase by the end of 2010.

However, the report also indicates that there are serious limitations to measuring progress in the power sector, and states that it is difficult to measure progress in the shorter-term as nearly all of these projects are long-term activities. DFID is not directly engaged in this sector. The lead donors are the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

In October 2002, USAID committed support for a national irrigation and power rehabilitation programme in conjunction with Afghanistan's Ministry of Energy and Water. The programme is focused on the rehabilitation of the South East Power System (SEPS), a 100 MW power generation and transmission network. It aims to provide low cost and reliable power to 1.7 million residents in Helmand and Kandahar provinces by the end of 2009. Central to this initiative is a commitment to rehabilitate the Kajaki multi-purpose dam, built by USAID in 1953 on the Helmand River.

The programme is split into phases and will include rehabilitating and upgrading the dam, its power plant and associated transmission network by 2009. The first phase will increase Kajaki's generation capacity to 51 MW. Funding of $150 million has already been allocated for this work. The UK Government, through DFID, may fund smaller projects in the vicinity of the dam as part of a stabilisation programme.

The UK-led Task Force Helmand (TFH) has been tasked through ISAF with providing security sufficient to enable the resumption and successful completion of the USAID Kajaki Dam project. Security poses a bigger challenge for the UK in Helmand where GoA authority and rule of law is fragile. The UK military is helping to create an enabling environment for development to accelerate, and for training the Afghan National Army.

Annex A—Progress towards increasing Power Purchase

An agreement was signed on 21 February 2006 between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The agreement increases co-operation between the two countries in power transmission, reducing the purchase rate to minimum, continuity in power purchase and improve regulatory framework.

The Hairatan-Kabul 220 kv transmission line is currently under construction. It is due for completion by the end of 2008. This will be the main line transmitting imported electricity from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to take care of the immediate needs of Kabul.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan in April 2006 on further increase of power purchase. Under the agreement

Turkmenistan expressed readiness to increase its electricity export by 300 MW and support the new transmission infrastructure in the North-West (Hirat, Qala-e-Naw, Maimana, Shiberghan and Mazar).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 25 June 2006 between Afghanistan and Iran. Part of this MOU covers the provision of electricity to the western border towns of Afghanistan (Farah and Nimroz). I.R. of Iran has agreed to undertake the necessary study of this project.

In August 2006 Afghanistan became an Observer to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The accession report has been prepared by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ECT. Full accession is expected in May 2007.

In 2006, Afghanistan signed multilateral MOUs on 1,000 MW electricity transit with Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Iran. The four countries will meet in Kabul in June 2007 to evaluate the feasibility study which is currently under way. The Kabul sub-station of this project will allow Afghanistan to increase its power purchase.

In November 2006, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), increasing Afghanistan's power purchase from 70 MW to 300 MW, beginning from October 2008.

The power purchase agreement between Iran and Afghanistan expires by the end of 21 March 2006. During the Second Joint Economic Commission Meeting of the two countries (27 and 28 December 2006), it was agreed to renew and upgrade the agreement. During the meeting the two countries decided to work on the contract of the construction of transmission line (220 to 230 MW) between Zabul and Farah (survey is already complete). They also discussed extending electricity to the rural areas of Robat Sangi, Guiran and Kishk in Hirat Province.

India is ahead of schedule on its $100 million Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul line and substations at Chimtala and Doshi—estimated completion date is October 2008.

The ADB is on schedule for completion of its $75 million Pul-e-Khumri to Shekanbandar line for power from Tajikistan—estimated completion date is March 2009.

The ADB is on schedule for its $62 million Pule-e-Khumri to Hairatan and Naibabad to Mazar lines for power from Uzbekistan.

USAID is planning to launch design and planning on its $24 million Mazar to Sheberghan line and its $48 million Sheberghan to Turkmenistan line. It has sent a mission to Turkmenistan and the border to study the route and it is working on completing its feasibility study.

Germany is on schedule for substations at Mazar and Pul-e-Khumri.

Afghanistan and Tajikistan signed an Inter-Government Agreement in October 2006. It paves the way for the negotiation of the first North Eastern Power System (NEPS) Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding for Afghanistan was channelled through United Nations agencies in each year since 2004; and how much each UN agency received in each year. [127275]

Hilary Benn: The following table shows how much funding DFID Afghanistan has channelled through UN agencies in Afghanistan in each financial year since 2004-05.

£

UN Agency	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	5,730,748	5,322,613	2,062,126
International Organisation Migration (IOM)	3,500,000	—	—
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	2,500,000	—	—
UN Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	1,075,036	603,222	2,980,140
UN Habitat	—	—	300,000
Total	12,805,784	5,925,835	5,342,266

Bangladesh

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote the active role of children and young people in governance programmes *(a)* in Bangladesh and *(b)* elsewhere. [128926]

Mr. Thomas: Better governance is a central theme of DFID's work in Bangladesh. Programmes range from activities fighting corruption and supporting reform of the civil service and police, to supporting public debates and protecting human rights. Participation of children and young people has most impact on activities that aim to change values in relation to corruption and political governance.

For example, DFID's support for Transparency International Bangladesh includes a component called "Youth Engagement and Support" (YES). Over 900 young volunteers deliver nationwide debates, competitions, and rallies against corruption. The recent Anti-Corruption Concert in Dhaka attracted 30,000 young people in a bold public statement against corruption.

DFID Bangladesh also supports a series of governance themed programmes and "Question time" debates broadcast in Bangla on BBC World Service radio and local satellite TV. Audiences of 17 million have included around 4 million 16 to 24-year-olds. In 2005, a special live debate went out globally on BBC World TV, with a panel including politicians from both major parties in Bangladesh. Hard hitting governance questions came from audiences of students and young people in both Dhaka and (by satellite) from the British Bangladeshi community in London.

At global level, DFID launched its "Action Plan on Children and Young People's Participation" in 2004 to promote children and young people's participation in decisions affecting them. Part of a UK Government initiative "Learning to Listen", the Action Plan describes how DFID is involving children and young people in its work to reduce world poverty.

DFID continues to promote the active role of children and young people in governance programmes. Our work varies at the country level depending on the context. In Sierra Leone, for example, DFID has supported work to engage young people in dialogue on the implementation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy and the decentralisation process. Given its history, engaging young people is crucial in creating consensus and relieving tensions.

Reflecting UN initiatives and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), we also support projects and programmes to advocate for children's rights, either directly or through non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The UK Government are also a major contributor to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); one of UNICEF's roles is to advocate for the rights of children and young people.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what strategies his Department has to ensure protection for the poorest communities in Bangladesh who will be affected by climate change. [128927]

Mr. Thomas: The impact of climate change on Bangladesh from rising sea levels will be gradual; felt over the next 50 to 100 years. However, there is already evidence of more severe and frequent flooding and droughts, as well as coastal salt-water intrusion, negatively affecting poor people.

DFID's draft Country Assistance Plan (2007-12) aims to help Bangladesh respond in a timelier and more effective way to acute emergencies and climate change. DFID is helping the Government of Bangladesh's Climate Change Cell develop different strategies to adapt to climate change, including impacts of migration and resettlement on poor people. It has helped 137 poor communities develop their own risk reduction strategies.

DFID is also helping very poor people living on Chars river islands, which are vulnerable to flooding. We have assisted 107,000 Chars dwellers to raise their houses above the flood line. We have transferred portable assets (such as cows) to almost 11,000 extremely poor Chars women, helping them to make better and more informed decisions about where and when to migrate, together with a compensation grant to those who migrate due to more acute flooding.

DFID will provide £115 million over the next five years to support the very poorest people living in areas most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. By September 2007, it will develop an action plan to develop further activities, including protection of the poorest people living in the most vulnerable zones in urban areas.

Developing Countries: Insurance

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources his Department (i) has committed to micro-insurance schemes in the developing world and (ii) plans to commit in each of the next three financial years. [128928]

Hilary Benn: The UK's 2006 White Paper on International Development commits DFID to tackling barriers to access to markets and financial services, and supporting microfinance initiatives in partnership with banks and regulators.

DFID's financial sector programmes aim to build stronger and more inclusive financial sectors, which benefit the poor. "Microfinance" incorporates a full range of financial products, which includes micro-insurance as well as savings, credit and remittances.

At 31 October 2006, DFID has spent over £165 million to support microfinance and financial sector projects and had committed 140 million more to ongoing projects. DFID does not disaggregate funding on micro-insurance specifically. It is not possible to give a meaningful breakdown of future commitments by year as new programmes to improve access to finance continue to be designed and implemented.

Examples of microfinance programmes supported by DFID include:

In India, eMegatop received a grant of £850,000 via the Financial Services Deepening Trust, to support them in offering a range of microinsurance products and pension policies to farmers in 9,000 villages in Andhra and Madhya Pradesh using a network of village internet portals to lower costs and expand access.

Since the last review of commitments in October, DFID has approved a £32.8 million seven-year PROSPER programme in Bangladesh, which will support delivery of innovative financial services to the very poor, small businesses and farmers. Around 22 per cent. of these resources will go to a Learning and Innovation Fund which will support projects to test innovative financial services, including microinsurance.

As well as direct support to programmes, DFID also works in coordination with other donors and specialist agencies:

DFID provides core funding to the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), a consortium of 33 public and private development agencies working together to expand access to financial services for the poor. The CGAP working group on microinsurance, in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation, has recently published a Microinsurance Compendium for insurance practitioners and policy makers in developing countries.

DFID is a leading supporter of FIRST, the Financial Sector Reform and Strengthening Initiative, a multi-donor trust which provides advice to developing countries on how to develop their financial sectors. In Mongolia FIRST has worked with the insurance industry, the government and the World Bank to develop a novel livestock insurance scheme that will provide microinsurance to cattle herders at affordable prices.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of micro-insurance schemes in the developing world. [128929]

Hilary Benn: Surveys carried out by the FinMark Trust, a DFID funded programme in Africa, show that poor people already use a wide variety of formal and informal insurance services ranging from insurance provided by multinational companies to membership of traditional burial societies.

DFID has helped support the recent expansion of micro-insurance in developing countries as an effective way to help poor people to cope with shocks and reduce their vulnerability. Poor people need to be able to access a full range of financial services including insurance as well as savings, credit and remittances.

Although it is a relatively young industry, micro-insurance is already demonstrating its potential to provide protection to low-income communities against risks such as sickness and natural disasters. There remain big challenges, however, to the long-term

sustainability of microinsurance including making sure that schemes are affordable and ensuring that schemes are appropriately regulated.

Examples of DFID support to micro-insurance include:

In Bangladesh, DFID contributed £100,000 to an access to rural finance study. In conjunction with the World Bank, the study investigated the feasibility of introducing a weather linked insurance product for farmers, where payouts are directly linked to objective monitoring of floods and droughts.

In Africa the FinMark Trust has spent £271,000 over the last three years on programmes aimed at making insurance markets work for the poor and has committed a similar amount over the next three years. The funding has been provided to catalyse change in the insurance market and to leverage private sector investment.

Flowers

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the environmental costs of importing flowers from *(a)* Ethiopia and *(b)* Kenya. [129387]

Hilary Benn: Recent research by Cranfield university shows that the greenhouse gas emissions produced by growing flowers in Kenya and flying them to the UK can be less than a fifth of those grown in Holland because they are not grown in heated greenhouses.

Flowers imported to the UK are subject to increasingly rigorous standards that insist on good agricultural practice and prevent overuse of pesticides. In addition to these standards, flower growers may also adopt codes of conduct that require exacting social and environmental standards to be maintained. UK shoppers have played an important role in demanding better standards as have development agencies including DFID and non-governmental organisations. Consumer concern has also encouraged Kenyan flower farms to invest in water conservation and other improvements in their environmental practice. Nonetheless, there is still room for improvement and we welcome efforts to develop similar codes of practice in Ethiopia.

While we encourage shoppers to demand continuing improvements, it is for the Kenyan and Ethiopian people to decide on the best use of their natural resources.

Promoting developing country exports has long been central to UK development and trade policy. Agriculture remains an important source of economic growth and the best means of reducing poverty in most African countries. The Kenyan flower industry has created tens of thousands of jobs on flower farms and the Ethiopian Government have similar ambitions for their flower industry.

Middle East

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the total cost has been of *(a)* setting up and *(b)* managing the Temporary International Mechanism in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [129031]

Hilary Benn: In total, €309 million has been committed through the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) and €181 million has been disbursed to support Palestinian basic needs. The cost of setting up and managing the TIM so far has been approximately €4 million. This total includes all staff-related costs, logistics, office costs, consumables, communication activities, auditing services provided by an international auditing firm and monitoring of fuel deliveries in Gaza. In addition, €5.8 million has been spent on banking charges so far. The total cost of administering the TIM to date amounts to 5.4 per cent. of the total funds disbursed to support Palestinian basic needs.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff have worked at the Temporary International Mechanism office in Jerusalem since it was founded. [129032]

Hilary Benn: There are currently 23 staff members working at the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) office. This includes European Commission staff and staff seconded by member states. Altogether 32 different members of staff have worked at the TIM office at different times since work began.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Advertising Industry

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations he has received from the advertising industry on the impact of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations; and if he will make a statement. [129782]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) provide certain safeguards for employees in certain circumstances when a business or undertaking changes hands, and can also apply where a contract to provide goods or services is transferred.

The 2006 Regulations were produced after extensive consultation with all sides of industry. A professional services exemption (which might have covered parts of the advertising industry, among others) was considered during that process but most respondents (including the CBI) did not support it.

I met the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) with representatives of the advertising industry to discuss their concerns on 12 March. Our officials are currently considering papers provided by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising at that meeting, and plan to meet them shortly to discuss this matter further.

Businesses: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Occupation Exposure Limit-Framework Revision to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126616]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

(i) The costs to business of implementing the Occupational Exposure Limit-Framework Revision to businesses was estimated to be £16.2-£69 million one-off costs in the first year of compliance. No recurring costs were expected.

It should be noted that these costs were also included in the answer to a recent question on the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004, as these regulations implemented the changes to the Occupational Exposure Limit Framework.

These figures should be considered against the benefits of reducing the risks from hazardous substances. The new framework aimed to make it easier for employers to comply with COSHH by reducing the different types of Occupational Exposure Limits for hazardous substances and introducing clear principles of exposure control.

(ii) Costs to the health and safety regulators were not quantified but were considered to be small, with the majority of costs being incurred in the development of guidance and being balanced out by savings in enforcement. The information in this reply was drawn from the final regulatory impact assessment for the legislation that is available in the Library or on the HSE website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/ria/index.htm.

The Government and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are committed to meeting the Better Regulations challenge. HSE is constantly reviewing what can be done better to ensure that the right balance is struck between protecting people at work and avoiding unnecessary burdens on business. Reviewing and improving the guidance to help employers comply with COSHH is one of the aims in HSE's simplification plan.

Employment: EC Law

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Biocidal Products Regulations 2001 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125605]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The cost to business of implementing the Biocidal Products Regulations 2001 was estimated to be between £131 million and £220 million over a 10-year period, of which between £62 million and £151 million were initial costs.

Costs, over the same period, to the health and safety regulators were estimated to be in the region of £2 million of which £343,000 were initial costs. The information in this reply was drawn from the final regulatory impact assessment for the legislation that is available in the Library or on the House website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/ria/index.htm.

These figures should be balanced against the health and safety and environmental benefits from the extension of regulatory control to a wide range of biocidal products.

The Government and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are committed to meeting the Better Regulation challenge. HSE is constantly reviewing what can be done better to ensure that people are protected at work while avoiding unnecessary burdens on business.

Heating

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research the Government are undertaking into the long-term merits of electric heating by comparison with other heating sources. [125319]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have committed to putting the UK on a path to a 60 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

As part of the forthcoming Energy White Paper the Government are undertaking a wide range of analysis into the options for reducing carbon emissions.

This analysis includes examining the costs of low carbon electricity generation technologies such as renewables, nuclear and carbon capture and storage as well as measures to improve energy efficiency through measures such as better insulation and draught proofing.

The Energy White Paper is expected to be published soon.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research the Government plan to carry out on the long-term effect on carbon emissions of electric heating by comparison with other heating sources. [125321]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have undertaken a wide range of analysis of the options to reduce carbon emissions from different sources. This includes the 2003 Energy White Paper and the review of the Climate Change Programme and Energy Review both in 2006.

The analysis of the impact of existing policies on carbon emissions in the UK Climate Change Programme is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/pdf/syntheticcpolicy-evaluations.pdf

The analysis of the impact of new measures and extensions to existing measures under the programme is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/pdf/syntheticcpolicy-appraisals.pdf

A summary of the cost-benefit analysis of measures in the Energy Review is available at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file31928.pdf

The Government have committed to putting the UK on a path to a 60 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. Reducing carbon emissions from the use of electricity will make an important contribution to meeting this target.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many chronic obstructive pulmonary disease coal health claims have been struck out through failure to meet the claims questionnaire cut-off deadline of 8 December 2006; and how many of those were from Bassetlaw constituency. [128323]

Malcolm Wicks: No claims have been struck out of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease scheme because of any missed cut-off date so far. As the cut-off date for the live claims questionnaire (CQ) submission was 8 December 2006, the dispute procedure is still ongoing. However, there are 200 claimants who have submitted a dispute that is still to be resolved.

Some 6,970 claimants have failed to submit a fit for medical assessment process (MAP) CQ before the cut-off date, of which 76 are from the Bassetlaw constituency.

Meters

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he has taken to ensure that the conclusions of trials of smart enabled meters will be taken into account in plans for the implementation of the Energy Services Directive. [128734]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government will set out their views on metering and billing in the forthcoming Energy White Paper. The trials of smart meters and associated devices will play a key part in future decisions on smart metering as a whole, including implementation of Article 13 of the Energy Services Directive.

Natural Gas

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total UK gas storage capacity was on 1 January in each of the last 30 years for which records are available. [117918]

Malcolm Wicks: Great Britain's gas storage capacity during the period from 1997 is summarised in my parliamentary written answer of 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1615W, to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison). I regret that only limited information is available for the period prior to 1996-97. The following table shows the start-up date of each of the earliest storage facilities, and their approximate storage space as of 1996-97:

Facility	*Start-up date*	*Approx. space in 1996-97 (GWh)*	*Approx. space in 1996-97 (bcm)*
Glenmavis	1971	600	0.056
Partington	1972	1,200	0.112
Hornsea	[1]1973	2,900	0.270
Avonmouth	1978	900	0.084
Grain	1981	1,200	0.112
Dynevor	1983	300	0.028
Rough	1985	30,300	2.818

[1] Estimated

Notes:

1. Store space can be assessed in numerous ways (e.g. energy, volume, cushion gas determination, liquefied natural gas heel, etc.), so the figures given may differ from other published data.
2. GWh = Giga Watt Hours; bcm = Billion Cubic Metres.

Source:

National Grid.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has met British Nuclear Fuels to discuss the shortfall in revenues generated for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [124787]

Malcolm Wicks: No. Discussions about the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's funding—which is a mixture of grant in aid from the Department and income from its commercial operations—have been at official level.

Research Councils: Finance

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1995W, on research, what methodology was used to ensure that the change to the budgets of the research councils would have minimal impact on the research objective reflected in his Department's public service agreement objective. [127943]

Malcolm Wicks: This part of the overall calculation took account of assessments made by research councils about the impact on their planned activities.

Budget 2007 announces an early CSR settlement for the DTI's ringfenced science budget, alongside a settlement for DFES. Together, these will ensure that investment in the public science base will rise by an annual average rate of 2.5 per cent. in real terms over the CSR period. The Department of Trade and Industry's science budget will increase from £3.4 billion this year (2007-08) to £3.9 billion by 2010-11. These early settlements provide long-term certainty for the research community, and meet the commitments set out in the 10-year investment framework.

In the context of a tight spending review period, this represents a very good settlement for science.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effect of the change to the research councils budget. [125339]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cambridge (David Howarth) on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1602W.

Budget 2007 announces an early CSR settlement for the DTI's ringfenced science budget, alongside a settlement for DFES. Together, these will ensure that investment in the public science base will rise by an annual average rate of 2.5 per cent. in real terms over the CSR period. The Department of Trade and Industry's science budget will increase from £3.4 billion this year (2007-08) to £3.9 billion by 2010-11. These early settlements provide long-term certainty for the research community, arid meet the commitments set out in the 10-year investment framework.

In the context of a tight spending review period, this represents a very good settlement for science.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cambridge of 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1602W, on research councils: finance, if he will list the meetings his officials had with the research councils to discuss the likely impact of the reductions in end-year flexibility on the planned activities. [127926]

Malcolm Wicks: Officials have regular and frequent contacts with research councils. In recent weeks there have been discussions between DTI officials and research council staff about end-year flexibility on virtually a daily basis.

Budget 2007 announces an early CSR settlement for the DTI's ringfenced science budget, alongside a settlement for DFES. Together, these will ensure that investment in the public science base will rise by an annual average rate of 2.5 per cent. in real terms over the CSR period. The Department of Trade and Industry's science budget will increase from £3.4 billion this year (2007-08) to £3.9 billion by 2010-11. These early settlements provide long-term certainty for the research community, and meet the commitments set out in the 10-year investment framework.

In the context of a tight spending review period, this represents a very good settlement for science.

Small Businesses

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if his Department will take steps to introduce microfinance schemes for individuals in deprived areas to improve entreprenueurialism in those areas. [124729]

Margaret Hodge: The Government have already taken steps to introduce microfinance schemes to encourage entrepreneurs in deprived areas.

The Phoenix Fund, launched in 1999, was a time limited, £40 million fund which pump-primed the establishment of 63 community development finance institutions that serve disadvantaged communities around the country. 4,545 loans with a total value of £34,475,308 were provided by the Phoenix Fund, which closed in 2006. Future funding of CDFIs rests with the RDAs who have received a further £11 million of post-Phoenix transition funding for the 2006 to 2008 period specifically for the community finance sector.

Further assistance with micro-loans is available through the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) which was announced by the Chancellor in his 2005 Budget. It aims to release the economic and productivity potential of the most deprived local areas across the UK through enterprise and investment—thereby boosting local incomes and employment opportunities, and building sustainable communities.

LEGI is a £300 million programme in the first instance, spread over three years. 15 local authorities have already benefited from the first round. A further 14 local authorities will benefit from the second round. Local authorities that have been successful in securing LEGI funding in rounds one and two may introduce microfinance schemes to encourage entrepreneurship.

Finally, small businesses in disadvantaged areas may seek funding from the Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG). This scheme provides loans from £5,000 upwards to small businesses with viable business plans that are unable to obtain a conventional loan because they do not have collateral or a proven track record. Current monthly usage is around 250 loans with a total value of around £20 million.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances an asylum seeker with exceptional leave to remain is able to leave and return to the UK. [127815]

Mr. Byrne: A person who applies for asylum and is granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom for more than six months is normally permitted to travel abroad and return to the United Kingdom until their leave expires, provided that they are not absent for a continuous period of more than two years. If they remain outside the United Kingdom for more than two years their leave will lapse and they may not be readmitted to the United Kingdom. The policy and the exceptions to it are set out in the Asylum Policy Instruction Travel Abroad, which is publicly available on the IND website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/asylumpolicyinstructions/

Asylum: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in the UK in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 were the subject of an age dispute; and how many of those were subsequently found to be minors. [127535]

Mr. Byrne: Information is not available on how many of those asylum applications lodged in 2005 and 2006 from unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs) were at some time the subject of an age dispute. The number of age dispute cases who were subsequently found to be minors would only be available by examination of individual case-files at disproportionate cost.

Information on UASCs is published on a quarterly and annual basis. Statistics on age disputed applications are published annually. Data on age disputed asylum applications in 2005 and 2006 do not necessarily relate to UASC applications received within the same period. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 144W, on departmental computers, from which office in his Department each computer was stolen in each year; and what the security classification was of the material on each computer. [123605]

Mr. Byrne: As these records are not held centrally it has not been possible to collate a response to this PQ.

Work Permits: Football

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were granted to footballers since 1990; and in what situations they were required. [126045]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows how many footballers have been granted work permits in each year since 1995. There are no statistics available for the period before 1995.

Prior to the 1999-2000 season the work permit requirements were:

The player had to have played in approximately 75 per cent. of international matches for a national team that regularly engaged in competitive matches at the top level of world football.

Clubs had to provide evidence that they had made genuine efforts to recruit players from the UK and EEA labour market.

The salary offered had to reflect the current market rates and the club had to indicate the position that the overseas player would take in its salary structure.

In 1999 the criteria were changed and the current requirements were put in place. The requirements are:

The player must have played for his country in at least 75per cent. of its competitive 'A' team international matches he was available for during the two years preceding the date of the application.

The player's country must also be at or above 70th place in the official FIFA' world rankings when averaged over the two years preceding the date of the application.

Where an application does not meet these requirements the club can request a review by an independent panel of the football bodies and three independent experts.

The following table shows how many footballers have been granted work permits in each year since 1995. There are no statistics available for the period before 1995.

	Number of work permits approved
1995	50
1996	53
1997	25
1998	68
1999	78
2000	76
2001	56
2002	50
2003	53
2004	50
2005	49
2006	70
2007 (to date)	13
Total	718

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce sanctions against people who are evicted for antisocial behaviour who subsequently refuse intensive family support. [128215]

Mr. Pleskitt: I have been asked to reply

In the Respect Action Plan, published on 10 January 2006, the Government announced that they were considering the use of sanctions to ensure that those households who are evicted for antisocial behaviour take up help offered to them. A measure to sanction housing benefit when evicted households have refused offers of help is currently before Parliament as Clause 30 of the Welfare Reform Bill, first introduced in July 2006.

Avian Influenza

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location was of each outbreak of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza in UK poultry; what type of bird was involved in each case; what action was taken to contain each outbreak; and what the source was of the infection in each case. [128999]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been three confirmed outbreaks of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza in UK poultry.

In 1959, H5N1 avian influenza was detected in a flock of chickens in Scotland. In 1991, H5N1 avian influenza was detected in turkeys in Norfolk, England. In both cases the birds were culled and the disease was confined to a single premises.

On the basis of genetic analysis, the H5N1 viruses discovered in 1959 and 1991 were a different strain to the H5N1 Asiatic strain which is currently circulating. The source of neither outbreak was ever firmly established.

Most recently, on 3 February 2007, H5N1 avian influenza was confirmed at a Bernard Matthews turkey farm in Holton, Suffolk. In accordance with EU legislation, a 3 kilometre Protection Zone, a 10 kilometre Surveillance Zone and a further Restriction Zone around the infected premises were put in place. Extensive guidance was issued to bird keepers in the zones on biosecurity measures to protect their birds from avian influenza. The birds on the infected premises were humanely culled and disposed of according to DEFRA's published Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases.

Within the area around the infected premises, there were enhanced levels of surveillance of wild birds. While the investigation in the outbreak was under way, 25 wild bird locations comprising 73 sites in the area were regularly patrolled. Laboratory tests were completed on dead wild birds found in the area as well as on live wild bird droppings from the infected premises. All results were negative.

We are currently developing our investigation into what might have caused the outbreak of avian influenza at Holton. The conclusion of the interim report is that importation from Hungary is the most plausible route. However, investigations are still ongoing and nothing can be ruled out at this time. The final epidemiological report will be published in due course.

Birds of Prey: Qatar

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations govern the *(a)* import from and *(b)* export to Qatar of hybrid falcons; and what recent representations he has received on the numbers of hybrid falcons imported from and exported to Qatar. [128383]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are two separate sets of regulation governing the import and export of hybrid falcons into and out of the EU.

Imports of all captive birds, including hybrid falcons, from countries outside of the EU into the EU community are currently prohibited by Commission Decision 2005/760/EC (as amended). The only captive birds currently permitted are birds for conservation purposes or for zoos which must have and must meet the conditions of a licence issued by Defra.

For exports of hybrid falcons to Qatar, official veterinary health certificates are required, which are issued by local SVS Animal Health Divisional Offices.

There are also EU regulations which implement the Convention on International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), currently Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006.

I have received no recent representations on numbers of hybrid falcons imported from and exported to Qatar.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid in compensation to farmers for losses of animals because of *(a)* TB and *(b)* other reasons in each of the last five years. [127861]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Compensation paid in Great Britain

£

Cause of animal loss	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Bovine Tuberculosis	23,139,712	38,218,172	33,823,112	42,952,107	[1]28,169,269
Bovine Brucellosis	0	396,497	149,096	14,856	4,538
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy[2]	2,893,948	1,463,669	683,344	7,699,964	944,216
Scrapie	56,418	16,825	5,421,450	12,171,161	6,341,639
Foot and Mouth Disease	399,750	0	0	0	0
Salmonella	15930	0	601	572	53939
Avian Influenza	0	0	0	0	[3]—
Newcastle Disease	0	0	0	[3]—	[3]—

1 Figures are provisional and subject to change.
2 Figures include BSE suspects, cohorts and offspring in Great Britain. The culling of cohorts commenced in 2005 and involved culling a backlog of cohorts in anticipation of the replacement of the Over Thirty Month rule.
3 Only one premises affected. Defra does not make public individual compensation payments.

Climate Change Bill

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects the draft Climate Change Bill to allow emissions reductions attributed to the UK to be achieved overseas; and if he will make a statement. [128112]

Ian Pearson: The proposed Bill would allow, under prescribed conditions, a proportion of emissions reductions achieved overseas and paid for by UK entities, to be counted towards the reduction targets in the Bill. This is fully consistent with (and would be limited by) international law, including the Kyoto Protocol and its Marrakech Accords which state, under the flexible mechanism provisions, that countries are permitted to use credits, so long as they are "supplemental to domestic action", and that domestic action comprises a "significant element" of the efforts made by each country.

The UK fully supports the principle of trading emissions at European level too through the EU ETS. There are significant advantages in allowing international trading as part of the UK's legislative framework: for example, it would encourage the further development of global emission, trading markets which, as the Stern Review showed, will be central to global collective action to tackle climate change. The Committee on Climate Change will have an important role to play in advising Government on the optimal balance between domestic and overseas effort for each budgetary period.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many destruction orders were made under the *(a)* Dogs Acts and *(b)* Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each London borough in each of the last five years. [128794]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures for the number of destruction orders made under dangerous dogs legislation are not held centrally.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department will launch the consultation on the Energy Efficiency Commitment 3. [128725]

Ian Pearson: The Government engaged in discussion with stakeholders throughout 2006 to inform development of proposals for the third phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment, 2008-11 (EEC3). This included an initial consultation from July to October 2006, for which the summary of responses was published on 12 January 2007. The first draft of the Illustrative Mix of Measures for EEC3 was published on 26 September 2006. Further to this, on 12 January 2007 we published the proposed scores for established EEC3 measures for consultation. On 16 March we published the final scores for those measures, in order to provide early certainty and facilitate the transition to EEC3. Statutory consultation on the EEC3 is planned for May 2007.

Horses: Insurance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward amendments to the Animals Act 1971 to mitigate the effects on the cost of insurance for horse businesses of the 2003 House of Lords judgment on the interpretation of that Act. [127595]

Mr. Bradshaw: Decisions about the provision and cost of insurance cover for equestrian businesses are matters for the commercial judgment of the insurance industry.

However, the Government are well aware of the horse industry's view that the Mirvahedy judgment in 2003 had an adverse effect on insurance premiums. My Department has consulted interested parties on the question of whether an amendment to the Animals Act 1971 to allow a defence of reasonable care would be desirable or appropriate. Parties consulted included the British Horse Industry Confederation, the Country Land and Business Association and the Countryside Alliance.

The majority of responses received were in favour of a change, and my Department has accordingly offered the horse industry its support if a suitable vehicle for amending the Animals Act, such as a Private Member's Bill, can be found. That offer remains on the table.

Marine Fisheries Agency

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any costs will be incurred by changing the name of the Marine Fisheries Agency to the Marine and Fisheries Agency. [128820]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost is in the region of £5,000 which is to be spent on signs for the offices and document templates. All costs will be met from within the existing Marine Fisheries Agency budget.

Poultry Farming

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with EU ministers about the implementation of the 1999 Laying Hens Directive; and if he will make a statement. [129476]

Mr. Bradshaw: My ministerial colleagues and I have regular discussions with our EU counterparts on a range of issues.

Council Directive 1999/74/EC, which lays down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, is implemented in England through the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002.

Whales: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which foreign Governments have responded to his Department's publication "Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility"; what the nature has been of their responses; and if he will make a statement. [128659]

Mr. Bradshaw: Like-minded members of IWC have praised our initiative in publishing this booklet and are also making use of it in their own recruitment drives. The booklet and the lobbying which has accompanied its distribution has elicited positive responses from non-members (or unpaid-up members) of IWC, including Costa Rica, Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro and others, some of whom are expected to be able to adhere to the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling before the next IWC meeting. Pro-whaling countries have, of course, been critical but that is no surprise.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 194W, on whaling, to which 57 countries the "Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility" document was distributed; whether it has been distributed to any further foreign governments; and if he will make a statement. [128616]

Mr. Bradshaw: Copies of the publication "Protecting Whales A Global Responsibility" have been delivered to Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Macedonia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Belize, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Guatemala, Nicaragua, China, Guinea, Germany, Switzerland, Brazil, Slovakia, Belgium, Hungary, Argentina, Australia, Ireland, India, Finland, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Spain, Mexico, Oman, Kenya, Norway, Panama, France, Czech Republic, South Africa, Italy, Chile, Sweden, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, United States of America, Austria and New Zealand.

Copies will be delivered to all International Whaling Commission (IWC) members before this year's annual meeting of the IWC59 and in future the publication will be used to help encourage other countries to actively engage in the protection of cetacean species around the globe.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage: Conservation

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 455W, on English Heritage: finance, what estimate English Heritage made in its analysis as supplied to her Department of the extra resources needed to fulfil its new responsibilities arising from the Heritage Protection for the 21st Century White Paper. [129343]

Mr. Lammy: My Department is considering English Heritage's estimate of their likely costs to undertake their responsibilities as proposed in the White Paper Heritage Protection for the 21st Century as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128758]

Mr. Lammy: No Ministers have held any meetings with trade union representatives in 2006. However, DCMS officials meet regularly with them on a wide range of staffing and accommodation issues. The Permanent Secretary also chairs an annual meeting between senior management and local and national trade union representatives to review key departmental issues and the effectiveness of the day-to-day working relationship between the two sides.

Parliamentary Questions

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to answer question *(a)* 126210 and *(b)* 126569, on the 2012 Olympics, tabled by the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent. [129380]

Mr. Caborn: I answered question 126569 on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1055W. We hope to be able to answer question 126210 shortly.

Television Licensing

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what right of access the Television Licensing Authority has to enter private premises to search for equipment which may require a licence; and if she will make a statement. [129479]

Mr. Woodward: TV Licensing officials may enter premises to check for unlicensed use of a television receiver only with the consent of the occupier or with a warrant issued under section 366 of the Communications Act 2003 by a justice of the peace in England and Wales, a sheriff in Scotland or a lay magistrate in Northern Ireland. Such a warrant may be issued only if the relevant official is satisfied by information provided on oath that there are reasonable grounds for believing an offence of unlicensed use has been or is being committed; evidence of the commission of the offence is likely to be on the premises specified and a number of additional conditions are satisfied. A warrant permits the authorised person or persons to enter the premises at any time and to search, examine and test any television receiver there. It must be executed within one month following its grant.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 201W, on the armed forces: deployment, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* documentation and *(b)* conclusions of the review of the data collation process on service personnel deployment. [124797]

Mr. Ingram: The previous answer referred to measures taken to ensure that we provide robust data covering the numbers of military personnel deployed on operations. Administrative procedures for the collection and dissemination of data were examined, and improved where necessary. This did not take the form of a formal review, but we are confident that manpower figures are now being reported that better reflect the position with regard to the numbers of deployed personnel.

Astute Class Submarines

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he intends to place the order for a fourth Astute class submarine. [128579]

Mr. Ingram: Three Astute class submarines are on order with BAE Systems (Submarine Solutions), and further boat orders are currently being considered, subject to affordability. We are working with industry as part of the Defence Industrial Strategy to achieve an affordable and sustainable submarine programme.

Navy: Military Bases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1987W, on the Navy: military bases, (1) what factors have led to the delay in awarding this contract; and what steps have been taken to prevent further delay; [128903]

(2) when he expects the contract to be signed. [128904]

Mr. Ingram: Various factors have contributed to the delay in awarding the contract, including an extended time scale for bidders to submit their proposals and protracted negotiations for partnering agreements between the Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service and each of the bidders. In addition, since the announcement of Serco Denholm as the preferred bidder, consideration has been given to a revised proposal from the company to change the bidding entity for the provision of marine services. It also proved necessary to review the technical solution and carry out a re-pricing exercise as a result of changing market forces in the shipbuilding industry.

Good progress is now being made between MOD and Serco Denholm with all outstanding issues now agreed in the form of Heads of Terms. On current plans, the final contract is expected to be awarded to allow service commencement for the work already conducted by Serco Denholm (Vesting Day) by July 2007. Service commencement for the work currently conducted in-house by the Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service is planned for October, to allow sufficient time to meet the TU Consultation requirements.

Senior Officers: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1366W, on senior officers: Transport, what the reasons are for the delay in placing a copy of the regulations in the Library; how senior officers are *(a)* made aware of and *(b)* given access to these regulations; and if he will make a statement. [128781]

Mr. Ingram: Currently, the MOD establishment responsible for the production of such documents is focusing on supporting urgent operational requirements and the request for a copy of the Joint Service Publication (JSP) 800 Vol. 2 and JSP 341 (re-issued as the JSP 800 Vol. 5) was mistakenly treated as a routine request and as a result has taken longer than expected. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House today.

The existence of JSPs is widely publicised throughout the MOD by means of Defence Instructions and Notices and through letters of instruction where appropriate. JSPs are available on the Defence intranet and, if their unit is an approved holder, senior officers can also access a CD or hard copy version. Additional advice can also readily be obtained from the authors of JSPs.

Trident

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate how many *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect civilian jobs in (i) Scotland and (ii) the rest of the UK rely upon the Trident programme. [107942]

Des Browne: The number of civilian jobs that rely directly on the current Trident programme is estimated to be 859 in Scotland with an additional 7,455 in the rest of the UK. The number of indirect civilian jobs is estimated to be 250 in Scotland and 6,700 in the rest of the UK.

Additionally, a significant number of military jobs in the UK directly support the Trident programme. In Scotland this amounts to some 1,776 jobs. It is not possible accurately to estimate the number of civilian jobs that reply indirectly on these military posts.

Trident Submarines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Royal Navy's Vanguard class SSBN ballistic submarines; and if he will consider enlarging the UK's current capability by procuring additional vessels. [129770]

Des Browne: There are no plans to enlarge the UK's nuclear deterrent capability by procuring additional Vanguard-class submarines. On 14 March, the House voted to support the Government's plans to maintain the deterrent beyond the life of the Vanguard-class submarines in accordance with the position set out in the White Paper, The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994) published in December 2006.

Warships: Procurement

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all vessels built under the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme will be *(a)* classified as military vessels and *(b)* constructed within the United Kingdom. [128581]

Mr. Ingram: All the ships to be procured under the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme will be classified as military vessels.

The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability project is in its assessment phase, and it is therefore too early to say what the final designs and specifications for these vessels might be and where the work will be carried out. We will use the assessment phase to look into the potential options, taking into account best value for money and wider industrial factors, before any decisions are made at the main gate investment point.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has investigated the feasibility of retrofitting the Bay class landing ship dock auxiliaries with aircraft hangers. [128584]

Mr. Ingram: There is currently no requirement for the Bay class landing ship dock auxiliary vessels to be fitted with an aircraft hangar and the feasibility of doing so has not been investigated.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Slavery Remembrance Day

Ms Butler: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to implement a slavery remembrance day. [129790]

The Deputy Prime Minister: As I said in the House on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 688, the Government are encouraging a debate about how we can commemorate the slave trade in the future. We are aware of the strong calls for a national day for the remembrance of the slave trade and its abolition as well as highlighting the problem of modern day slavery, and are actively considering the issue.

As the House is aware, events and activities are taking place throughout this bicentenary year but with a special focus on both 25 March (the date Royal Assent was given to the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807) and 23 August (the UNESCO international day for the remembrance of the slave trade and its abolition). The House will be aware, however, that other dates have been suggested: the European Commission, for example, supports 11 June as a possible European day against

human trafficking. As I made clear in the House on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 722, we are approaching the issue from a very positive perspective and Ministers are keen to listen to the views of our local communities as this year progresses on whether there should be a remembrance day and, if so, on what date it should fall.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Office of the Third Sector

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff work in the Office of the Third Sector, broken down by grade; and how many in each grade have *(a)* left and *(b)* joined the Office since its formation. [129771]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 593W.

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which outside consultants have been commissioned to work on the review of the Office of the Third Sector; what their role is in the exercise; and how much they are being paid for their services. [129783]

Edward Miliband: Following its establishment in May and the appointment of a new Director General, the Office of the Third Sector is being restructured to enable it to deliver its objectives, reflecting the needs of third sector organisations.

There are no outside consultants working on this programme. An individual has been seconded from the Big Lottery Fund to lead the programme and support the Director General with implementation. It would not be appropriate to provide details of how much they are being paid for their services as to do so could reveal the individual's salary, which is personal information.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit fraud referrals were accepted for investigation in each year since 1999; in how many of these referrals fraud was detected in each year; and how many *(a)* sanctions were imposed, *(b)* prosecutions were made and *(c)* prosecutions resulted in a conviction in each year. [116583]

Mr. Plaskitt: Figures for detected fraud by local authorities are not available. The available information is in the following table.

Benefit fraud investigations, detected fraud, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions by DWP and local authorities

	Referrals accepted for investigation	Detected fraud (DWP only)	Prosecutions	Convictions	Sanctions
1999-2000	[1]564,543	198,467	[1]9,272	10,029	[1]20,286
2000-01	[1]441,368	182,569	[1]11,584	12,503	[1]27,139
2001-02	615,136	160,974	13,456	12,915	[1]24,906
2002-03	543,919	145,232	12,573	11,733	32,735
2003-04	504,659	135,710	13,891	12,844	38,741
2004-05	505,944	150,651	14,299	13,204	44,091
2005-06	538,492	161,172	16,852	15,088	54,097

[1] These figures are for DWP cases only. Referrals accepted for investigation, sanctions and prosecution are not available for 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

Notes:

1. Sanctions are defined here as the sum of 'prosecutions', 'admin penalties' issued, and 'cautions' issued.
2. The figures for cases of detected fraud are based on the number of effective benefit cases, which is defined as an investigation that results in an adjustment of the current rate of benefit, an overpayment or an underpayment or the person ceasing their claim to benefit. Detected fraud excludes general matching service (GMS) cases.
3. Referrals accepted exclude general matching service (GMS) cases.
4. Sanctions, prosecutions and convictions figures include GMS, Instrument of Payment (IOP) and Organised Fraud cases.
5. Prosecutions figures exclude cases withdrawn at court.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the cost of *(a)* operating and *(b)* advertising the benefit fraud hotline is in 2006-07; [116591]

(2) what the cost was of *(a)* operating and *(b)* advertising the benefit fraud online form in each year since its inception; and how many people have been successfully prosecuted for fraud as a result of evidence from the online form in each year. [116592]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department runs public information campaigns designed to positively reinforce honest behaviour, create a climate of intolerance to benefit fraud and undermine its social acceptability.

The benefit fraud hotline has no specific advertising budget of its own and the cost of advertising it is not separately available.

The operational costs of administering the national benefit fraud hotline include the costs of administering the report-a-benefit-thief online service. These costs cannot be separated. The available information is in the following table.

National benefit fraud hotline budget allocation

	£
2001-02	1,086,000
2002-03	959,277
2003-04	957,977
2004-05	1,192,843

2005-06	986,000
2006-07[1]	597,010

[1] Up to end of December 2006.

Notes:

1. Figures include goods, services and staffing costs.
2. The national benefit fraud hotline (NBFH) commenced in August 1996. Information around budget allocation is available only from year ending 2001-02. Prior to this, NBFH was the responsibility of the former DSS Benefits Agency Security Branch and figures on funding and budget costs are no longer available.

The available information regarding the number of people who have been successfully prosecuted for fraud as a result of evidence from the online report-a-thief form in each year are in the following table.

Convictions arising from completion of the DWP online report-a-thief form

	Number
2000-01	0
2001-02	4
2002-03	20
2003-04	22
2004-05	33
2005-06	64
2006-07 (to date)	55

Note:

1. Information is only available from April 2000.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were prosecuted as a result of evidence obtained from callers using the benefit theft hotline in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124708]

Mr. Plaskitt: Between 1 February 2006 and 31 January 2007 there were 608 people prosecuted as a result of evidence obtained from callers using the national benefit fraud hotline.

Note:

The figures relate to prosecutions carried out between the dates given. They do not relate to calls made during that time. Cases where a call to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline has not yet led to a prosecution are not included.

Source:

Fraud Information by Sector

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many callers used the benefit fraud hotline in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124737]

Mr. Plaskitt: The current telephony system does not identify the number of unique callers. Many customers call the hotline more than once to check progress or to report additional information.

Information regarding the number of calls answered is in the following table.

Month	*Calls answered*
2006	
February	21,351
March	20,887
April	12,737
May	15,387
June	20,327
July	16,819
August	20,513
September	14,295
October	15,784
November	22,653
December	11,118
2007	
January	19,574

Note:

Data include external partners Broad Systems performance as they provide NBFH services during out of hours, they are not part of Jobcentre Plus.

Source:

National Benefit Fraud Hotline

Community Care Grants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of applications for community care grants took *(a)* less than two weeks, *(b)* two to four weeks, *(c)* four to six weeks and *(d)* over six weeks in the last year for which figures are available. [124910]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is in the following table.

Community care grant applications cleared in 2005-06 in Great Britain

Working days to clear	*Number*	*Percentage*
Less than 10	418,500	72.7
Between 10 and 20 inclusive	135,100	23.5
Between 21 and 30 inclusive	16,400	2.8
More than 30	5,500	1.0
Total	575,500	100

Notes:

1. The clearance time for an individual application is measured in whole working days from the date of receipt of the application to the date of the decision, inclusive.
2. Numbers are based on applications cleared in the most recent financial year, not on applications received during that year.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages to the nearest 0.1 per cent. (apart from the total).

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for community care grants were *(a)* successful and (b) unsuccessful in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124911]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Community care grants in Great Britain

Month	*Initial awards*	*Initial refusals*
February 2006	22,900	24,200
March 2006	24,900	28,200
April 2006	19,700	20,300
May 2006	23,400	25,200
June 2006	25,300	29,000
July 2006	21,500	25,100
August 2006	22,500	26,700

Community care grants in Great Britain

Month	Initial awards	Initial refusals
September 2006	21,400	26,800
October 2006	25,300	31,200
November 2006	26,600	33,300
December 2006	19,000	24,100
January 2007	22,000	26,200

Notes:
1. Figures do not include awards or refusals made after review.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
DWP Social fund policy, budget and management information system.

Customer Overpayment Debt

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual cases of customer overpayment debt there have been in each year since 1997; what the total value was of customer overpayment debts in this period; what proportion of such debts are over 10 years old; and what the cost was of administering these debts. [106615]

Mr. Plaskitt: Our error reduction strategy "Getting Welfare Right: Tackling Error in the Benefits System", was published on 24 January 2007. This first ever, ambitious strategy on error reduction is based on prevention, compliance and correction—preventing new error, ensuring that customers and staff comply with benefit rules and identifying/correcting existing errors.

The strategy will save £1 billion over the five years to 2012.

The information is only available from the fiscal year 2000-01.

Details of individual customer overpayments identified are in the following table.

New debts

	Customer error overpayments identified		Official error and small overpayments identified	
	Volume	Value (£ million)	Volume	Estimated value (£ million)
2000-01	684,600	363	509,900	131
2001-02	568,700	328	422,000	106
2002-03	510,300	304	438,300	113
2003-04	386,700	278	303,900	85
2004-05	407,000	307	278,500	101
2005-06	549,600	365	296,800	99

The proportion of cases in the debt stock over 10 years old is not available.

Information on the cost of administering the above debt separately to the Department's other debt recovery operations is not available.

Eligible Loans Deduction Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to his Department has been of developing the Eligible Loans Deduction Scheme. [118808]

Mr. Plaskitt: The projected total expenditure for implementation and running costs for the three-year period 2005 to 2008 is £2.246 million.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there were in Employment Zone programmes for each month since April 2000; how many of those had previously engaged with Employment Zone programmes; how many found work; and how many had previously participated in the New Deal for Young People. [125901]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* Since April 2000, 75,000 people have gained a job through Employment Zones.

Of the 154,820 people who have entered the Employment Zone programme, 29,290 had previously participated in the new deal for young people.

Information on participants in Employment Zones for each month, and the number of those who had previously engaged with Employment Zone programmes is in the following table.

Month	Participants	Of which: had previously engaged with Employment Zone programme
April 2000	980	—
May 2000	2,050	—
June 2000	3,740	—
July 2000	6,380	—
August 2000	9,560	—
September 2000	13,130	—
October 2000	15,800	—
November 2000	18,270	—
December 2000	19,960	—
January 2001	21,330	—
February 2001	22,890	—
March 2001	24,340	—
April 2001	24,280	—
May 2001	24,090	—
June 2001	24,350	—
July 2001	22,910	340
August 2001	21,780	1,110
September 2001	20,920	1,900
October 2001	20,470	2,590
November 2001	19,900	3,630
December 2001	18,710	4,220
January 2002	17,850	4,850
February 2002	17,340	5,280
March 2002	17,070	5,550
April 2002	16,570	5,610
May 2002	16,120	5,680
June 2002	16,140	5,840
July 2002	15,760	5,830
August 2002	15,240	5,720
September 2002	15,450	5,880
October 2002	15,600	6,040
November 2002	16,180	6,700
December 2002	16,190	6,970
January 2003	16,710	7,570
February 2003	17,490	8,110
March 2003	18,370	8,700
April 2003	18,650	8,970
May 2003	18,450	8,920

Month	Participants	Of which: had previously engaged with Employment Zone programme
June 2003	19,130	9,230
July 2003	19,360	9,260
August 2003	19,570	9,070
September 2003	19,890	9,030
October 2003	19,940	8,920
November 2003	19,760	8,720
December 2003	19,160	8,410
January 2004	18,750	8,110
February 2004	18,880	8,040
March 2004	19,230	8,080
April 2004	19,230	7,980
May 2004	19,060	7,610
June 2004	19,090	7,390
July 2004	18,700	6,880
August 2004	18,810	6,680
September 2004	19,190	6,520
October 2004	19,690	6,470
November 2004	19,880	6,390
December 2004	19,440	6,080
January 2005	19,820	6,140
February 2005	20,990	6,470
March 2005	22,210	6,880
April 2005	23,490	7,290
May 2005	24,170	7,570
June 2005	24,800	7,800
July 2005	22,010	6,440
August 2005	22,610	6,640
September 2005	23,270	6,930
October 2005	23,950	7,120
November 2005	24,580	7,400
December 2005	24,490	7,470
January 2006	24,830	7,630
February 2006	25,370	7,880
March 2006	26,580	8,320
April 2006	27,150	8,550
May 2006	27,560	8,710
June 2006	28,180	8,940
July 2006	29,050	9,370
August 2006	28,440	9,390
September 2006	27,200	9,220
October 2006	26,860	9,110

— = Number is nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Latest data is to October 2006.
2. People can be, and will be, included as participating in more than one month if the time spent on Employment Zones exceeded one month.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Housing Benefit

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the cost of disregarding child benefit as income in claims for housing benefit and for tax credits. [128413]

Mr. Plaskitt: The estimated yearly cost of disregarding child benefit as income for housing and council tax benefit would be £300 million (housing benefit £220 million and council tax benefit £80 million).

Child benefit is not taken into account as income when assessing entitlement to tax credits.

Housing Benefit: Homeless Households

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to the housing benefit subsidy for homeless households in temporary accommodation on the availability of licensed and short-term leased accommodation. [128421]

Mr. Plaskitt: The subsidy system remains generous and the changes still allow for good quality accommodation to be procured.

Local authorities in London should be able to continue to secure good-quality leased temporary accommodation and meet all their reasonable costs within the limits of the existing subsidy system. The accommodation procured should still therefore be cost-neutral to the local authorities and there will be no need to move homeless households to cheaper accommodation.

There is no evidence that local authorities will be unable to procure sufficient leased accommodation within the new subsidy levels to meet their temporary accommodation needs.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to require homeless families to pay a share of the *(a)* housing and *(b)* management costs of their temporary accommodation from income support and jobseeker's allowance. [128422]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are currently working with Communities and Local Government, and the devolved administrations, to develop proposals which separate costs for the rent and management of temporary accommodation. Our objectives are to reflect reasonable rent and management costs and support people in temporary accommodation until a permanent solution becomes available.

We have no plans to require people to pay these costs from their income support or jobseeker's allowance.

Housing Benefit: Reform

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress the Department is making in implementing the modernisation of housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [124078]

Mr. Plaskitt: The next major housing benefit modernisation measures are contained in the Welfare Reform Bill. Included in the Bill are powers to facilitate the national rollout of the local housing allowance, to direct whom housing benefit should be paid to in the social sector and to modernise extended payment provisions. The Bill is currently progressing through the House of Lords, where it entered Grand Committee on 20 February.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current status of plans to reform housing benefit is; and when evidence will be available from the pilot areas. [127158]

Mr. Plaskitt: The next major housing benefit modernisation measures are contained in the Welfare Reform Bill. The Bill has reached the final stages in the House of Lords.

Evaluation was carried out over the full Pathfinders' period of October 2003 to February 2006 and 13 evaluation reports have been published so far. The final evaluation reports will be published in summer 2007.

Immigration Crime Partnerships

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Home Office on the creation of immigration crime partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [127967]

Mr. Plaskitt: Officials from DWP and the Home Office have regular discussions on a range of issues. Ongoing dialogue will include the development of immigration crime partnerships as announced in the Home Office paper "Enforcing the Rules" published on 7 March 2007.

National Insurance

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were noted as inaccurately matched to a given name in the last year for which figures are available. [129385]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

National Insurance: EC Nationals

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers have been issued in Northamptonshire to non-UK nationals since EU enlargement. [127903]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is that since 1 May 2004, 13,040 non-UK nationals have registered for a national insurance number in Northamptonshire.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* participated in the New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP), *(b)* were participating in the NDLP for the second or more time and *(c)* gained employment as a result of their participation in the NDLP in each month since 1997. [125811]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New deal for lone parents is a voluntary programme. Since October 1998, it has helped more than 482,000 lone parents into work. If lone parents choose to participate for a second or subsequent time in the programme, it indicates that they have previously found it helpful and likely to increase their chances of finding work.

The information is in the following table

New deal for lone parents

Month	*Participants*	*Of which: participating for second or more time*	*People gaining employment*
November 1998	10,820	0	1,220
December 1998	13,070	10	830
January 1999	19,390	80	1,480
February 1999	27,230	150	1,990
March 1999	35,560	260	2,460
April 1999	39,990	420	3,170
May 1999	42,490	570	2,760
June 1999	43,680	750	2,640
July 1999	45,350	1,080	2,910
August 1999	46,350	1,400	2,180
September 1999	50,220	1,950	3,270
October 1999	54,770	2,610	5,490
November 1999	56,190	2,930	4,810
December 1999	51,650	2,830	2,890
January 2000	53,230	3,350	3,290
February 2000	56,700	3,900	3,670
March 2000	60,410	4,480	5,060
April 2000	61,740	4,740	3,680
May 2000	62,800	5,140	3,900
June 2000	63,450	5,590	4,920
July 2000	63,430	5,850	3,760
August 2000	62,810	6,040	3,470
September 2000	65,580	6,770	6,030
October 2000	65,930	7,170	5,000
November 2000	64,520	7,330	5,150
December 2000	60,670	7,000	3,940
January 2001	61,580	7,560	3,620
February 2001	62,560	7,970	3,810
March 2001	63,380	8,330	5,140
April 2001	61,760	8,360	4,170
May 2001	60,890	8,510	4,160
June 2001	60,670	9,020	4,990
July 2001	60,460	9,310	3,880
August 2001	60,530	9,720	4,400
September 2001	62,130	10,440	5,880
October 2001	60,480	10,430	5,840
November 2001	61,220	10,900	7,190

New deal for lone parents

Month	Participants	Of which: participating for second or more time	People gaining employment
December 2001	59,240	10,680	3,360
January 2002	61,790	11,600	4,060
February 2002	65,100	12,680	4,780
March 2002	68,930	13,760	6,380
April 2002	69,760	14,380	5,290
May 2002	72,920	15,670	7,030
June 2002	74,660	16,440	5,250
July 2002	76,100	17,070	5,200
August 2002	76,340	17,580	6,600
September 2002	81,440	19,510	8,200
October 2002	82,430	20,060	7,210
November 2002	81,460	20,300	8,000
December 2002	77,450	19,500	3,360
January 2003	79,070	20,440	5,210
February 2003	80,720	21,330	4,590
March 2003	81,830	22,050	4,860
April 2003	82,170	22,650	4,540
May 2003	82,600	23,310	6,320
June 2003	84,270	24,250	5,550
July 2003	84,560	24,720	5,190
August 2003	84,710	25,070	5,840
September 2003	88,190	26,400	8,400
October 2003	90,320	27,220	9,750
November 2003	89,930	27,420	7,460
December 2003	85,830	26,310	4,620
January 2004	86,990	27,340	6,580
February 2004	89,070	28,560	5,930
March 2004	89,940	29,390	6,610
April 2004	88,780	29,320	7,470
May 2004	87,670	29,470	6,650
June 2004	85,680	29,050	6,000
July 2004	82,610	28,460	6,990
August 2004	80,380	27,980	5,300
September 2004	80,360	28,370	8,290
October 2004	81,040	28,930	10,630
November 2004	79,260	28,720	8,310
December 2004	72,660	26,610	5,250
January 2005	73,980	27,620	5,560
February 2005	74,600	28,470	6,220
March 2005	74,000	28,790	5,330
April 2005	72,970	28,960	7,260
May 2005	70,680	28,360	6,150
June 2005	68,670	27,650	5,340
July 2005	66,980	27,430	5,810
August 2005	65,680	27,230	4,390
September2005	68,180	28,530	8,660
October 2005	68,180	28,470	6,880
November 2005	67,120	28,130	6,580
December 2005	62,410	26,260	4,360
January 2006	63,100	26,680	4,230
February 2006	64,140	27,160	4,800
March 2006	63,450	27,020	6,220
April 2006	60,700	25,890	4,350
May 2006	58,300	24,910	4,290
June 2006	56,870	24,350	4,810
July 2006	54,910	23,590	3,510
August 2006	53,040	22,910	3,270

Notes:
1. Data is available from Nov 1998.
2. Latest data is to August 2006.
3. People can be, and will be, included as participating in more than one month if the time spent on New Deal for Lone Parents exceeded one month.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

New Deal Schemes: Self-employed

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to participate in the New Deal self-employment programme in the next 12 months; and how many participated in each of the previous three years. [128229]

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has estimated the costs to the public purse of assisting an unemployed person to return to work under the *(a)* New Deal self-employment programme and *(b)* other employment programmes. [128668]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Self-employment support is available to new deal participants through the mandatory new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus and through the voluntary new deal for partners and new deal for lone parents. There is no separate new deal self-employment programme.

Self-employment support offers an initial awareness session for potential entrepreneurs followed by a period of supported business planning with a business expert

and a period of "test trading". During test trading, participants start their business while continuing to receive their benefit, an allowance or working tax credits, depending on their circumstances, to help them over any initial transitional hurdles. This period can last up to a maximum of 26 weeks.

No specific assessment has been carried out into the relative merits, or costs involved, of returning to work through new deal self-employment compared with other elements of new deal. However, data indicate that of those who started the stage three self-employment test trading element of new deal for young people, 61 per cent. subsequently left to employment. Corresponding figures for the new deal for young people options are: employment option, 71 per cent.; full-time education and training option, 46 per cent.; voluntary sector, 51 per cent., and environmental task force, 52 per cent. Similar data are not available for the other new deals.

We expect that around 5,000 people will start new deal self-employment support in 2007-08.

Information is not available on the number of starts to self-employment provision through new deal for partners and new deal for lone parents in the last three years. Information on the number of people who started self-employment provision in the two mandatory new deals in each of the last three years is in the following table.

Starts on the new deal self-employment option

	New deal for young people	*New deal 25 plus*
2003-04	2,720	3,940
2004-05	2,340	3,770
2005-06	1,600	2,950

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Poverty: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of families with children who could not afford *(a)* winter coats and shoes, *(b)* two meals a day, *(c)* toys and *(d)* school trips in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) the latest year for which figures are available. [122386]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Data are not available for 1997. The most recent year for which figures are available is 2004. Figures are taken from the Families and Children's Study, an annual DWP-funded survey of 7,000 families with dependent children in Great Britain which has been carried out since 2001. The parent(s), usually the mother, are asked about a set of items, to report whether they "have this", "would like to have this but cannot afford it at the moment" or "do not want/need this at the moment". The responses are the respondent's own interpretations.

The available information is in the following table. Figures are not available for "two meals a day" and "school trips". They are available for "a cooked main meal" and "money for trips, holidays or outings" so these have been provided instead.

The proportions and numbers of families with children in Great Britain reporting that "they would like to have this but cannot afford it at the moment"

	2001		*2004*	
	Percentage	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*
Weather-proof coat for each child	2.8	196,000	1.3	89,000
Two pairs of all weather shoes for each child	7.4	520,000	3.9	274,000
A cooked main meal every day	1.7	119,000	1.1	77,000
Toys and sports gear for the children	6.5	451,000	3.4	238,000
Money for trips, holidays or outings	21.7	1,518,000	17.2	1,201,000

Note:
Population figures have been estimated by grossing up from a representative sample of 7,000 families and will therefore be subject to error.
Source:
Families and Children's Study

Rented Housing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number and *(b)* the proportion of households renting from (i) local authorities, (ii) registered social landlords, (iii) private landlords and (iv) owner occupiers which are workless. [126503]

Mr. Plaskitt: The following table shows the number and proportion of workless people by tenure.

	Total number of workless people, including pensioners (Million)	*Number of workless working age people (Million)*	*Proportion of workless people[1] (Percentage)*
Local authority tenants	3.0	1.8	54
Housing association tenants	1.9	1.1	53
Private tenants	1.3	1.2	32
Owners/part owners	11.8	4.6	18

[1] The proportion of workless people is the proportion of working age people who are out of work.
Note:
Figures may not add up due to rounding.
Source:
Labour Force Survey - October to December 2006

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were prosecuted for benefit fraud in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [128478]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Benefit fraud prosecutions convictions and sanctions by DWP and local authorities

	Prosecutions	Convictions	Total of all Sanctions
2003-04	13,891	12,844	38,741
2004-05	14,299	13,204	44,091
2005-06[4]	16,832	15,088	54,097

Notes:

1. Sanctions, prosecutions and convictions figures include QMS, Instrument of Payment (IOP) and Organised Fraud cases.
2. Prosecutions figures exclude cases withdrawn at court.
3. Sanctions are defined here as the sum of 'prosecutions', 'administrative penalties' issued, and 'cautions' issued.

Social Security Benefits: Maladministration

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his letter of 8 February to the hon. Member for Totnes and the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1214W, on maladministration payments, when he will decide the level of compensatory payment due to Miss Hinkley; and if he will make a statement. [122479]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 22 February 2007]:* I will write to the hon. Member regarding the specific circumstances of the case he raises.

Tenants: Personal Savings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount of savings held by *(a)* local authority tenants, *(b)* registered social landlord tenants, *(c)* private tenants and *(d)* owner occupiers. [126305]

Mr. Plaskitt: No estimates have been made of the amount of savings held by *(a)* local authority tenants, *(b)* registered social landlord tenants, *(c)* private tenants and *(d)* owner occupiers.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households eligible for winter fuel payments in 2006-07; and how many applications his Department has received for that payment. [129386]

James Pursell: Some 8,506,750 households received a winter fuel payment in winter 2005-06. It is not possible to say how many households are eligible for a winter fuel payment because in order to assess whether a person is entitled to a winter fuel payment we need to establish their circumstances. A person may be ineligible for various reasons such as serving a custodial sentence, in hospital receiving free in-patient treatment for more than 52 weeks, or subject to immigration control. Over 99 per cent. of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need to claim based on information already held by the Department. However some people aged 60 or over who are not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP may need to claim. For winter 2005-06 we received 311,900 claim forms by the cut-off date of 30 March 2006. Figures for winter 2006-07 are not yet available but we expect the numbers to be similar.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Any residence found to have four or more occupants aged 60 and over is not included in the household figures as it is assumed to be a care home.

Sources:

For winter fuel payments made: Information directorate 100 per cent data.

For claim forms received: winter fuel planning and implementation team and the winter fuel payment centre.

HEALTH

Acute Beds: Eastern Region

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospital beds per head of population there were in *(a)* the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire strategic health authority area, *(b)* the East of England Strategic Health Authority area, *(c)* the former Suffolk West Primary Care Trust area and *(d)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997. [127871]

Andy Burnham: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the average daily number of available acute beds per 100,000 population, for the period 2002-03 to 2005-06 for the former Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA, the former Suffolk West Primary Care Trust and the newly formed East of England SHA which was created on 1 October 2006, following the merger of three previous SHAs (Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA, Essex SHA and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA).

	Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire SHA	East of England SHA	Suffolk West PCT
2002-03	213.65	168.25	2.79
2003-04	218.91	172.55	—
2004-05	211.84	172.29	—
2005-06	198.28	163.40	—

Notes:

1. Due to SHA reconfigurations, data from prior to 2002-03 are not available at SHA level.
2. Population data for mid-year 2006 and beds data for 2006-07 are not yet available.
3. Suffolk West PCT only provided acute beds in 2002-03. They subsequently provided geriatric beds.
4. Suffolk West PCT was formed at the start of 2002-03 from Bury St Edmonds PCG. The old organisation did not provide any beds.

Source:

Department of Health dataset KH03 and Office for National Statistics. Population data are for mid year (based on 2001 census)

Ambulance Services: Emergency Calls

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency calls were made to ambulance services in each year since 1997-98. [127822]

Andy Burnham: Validated information about ambulance service's response times to emergency calls is collected each year by the Department on return ambulance services, England: KA34 and published annually. Copies are available in the Library and available on the Information Centre for Health and Social Care's website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/ambulanceserv06

Emergency calls to ambulance services, 1997-98 to 2005-06, England

	Number of emergency calls (Million)
1997-98	3.58
1998-99	3.84
1999-2000	4.18
2000-01	4.41
2001-02	4.72
2002-03	4.93
2003-04	5.32
2004-05	5.62
2005-06	5.96

Source:
The Information Centre, Ambulance Services, England - Form KA34.

Blood Products: Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanism she will report to the House the findings of the review under way into the documents held by the Department relating to the safety of blood products between 1970 and 1985 when it is completed; and if she will make a statement. [129651]

Caroline Flint: When the report is finalised it will be placed in the Library.

Bowel Cancer Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England participating in the national bowel cancer screening programme have been invited to attend a follow-up endoscopy at each of the bowel cancer screening centres; and how many have attended at each of the centres. [129636]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Up to 5 February 2007, 594 people had attended a faecal occult blood (FOB) test positive clinic. At the clinic, a screening nurse assesses the person's suitability to undergo colonoscopy. The number of colonoscopies undertaken was 496, giving a colonoscopy uptake rate of 84 per cent. Please note these data are only to 5 February as colonoscopy data take longer to be entered on to the bowel cancer screening computer system.

The table shows the colonoscopies broken down by screening centre:

Local screening centre	*Screening nurse clinic attendance*	*Colonoscopies*
Wolverhampton	147	113
Norwich	199	173
Liverpool	96	88
South Devon	69	60
St. Mark's, London	60	50
St. George's, London	23	12
Total	594	496

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding her Department allocated to the national bowel cancer screening programe for 2006-07; and what funding has been agreed for the programme in 2007-08. [129627]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding for the national health service bowel cancer screening programme is included in the strategic health authority (SHA) bundle, which incorporates a number of budgets formally managed directly by the Department.

Around £10 million will be spent on wave 1 of the programme in 2006-07. The value of the SHA bundle for 2007-08 is £6,945.78 million, and was announced in the NHS Operating Framework that was published on 11 December to the NHS. Allocations are made direct to SHAs, and they manage the distribution of funds among the different programmes, including the bowel cancer screening programme, taking account of local circumstances.

This is an ambitious programme, and the Government are committed to ensuring that the necessary funding is available to ensure the full implementation of the bowel cancer screening programme.

Cancer: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Tamworth constituency residents have been treated for cancer in the last 12 months. [128334]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not centrally collect data on the number of people who have received treatment for cancer.

Childbirth

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* average period was that (i) primagravida and (ii) all other mothers spent in hospital after delivery in each year since 1995. [126142]

Andy Burnham: That information is not available in the form requested and it is not obtainable without incurring disproportionate cost.

Chiropody: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on provision of chiropody services in the Wirral. [127938]

Andy Burnham: Wirral Primary Care Trust funds and manages a community podiatry department which aims to meet the needs of people requiring podiatric intervention. Treatments and services include nail surgery, clinical treatments (routine and high risk care), biomechanical assessments (orthotics/insole provision), diabetic screening and training sessions for patients and outside agencies.

This Department also provides services to multi-disciplinary clinics at Wirral Hospital National Health Service Trust, as well as undertaking joint clinics with the community physiotherapy service.

Dentistry

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the net primary dental service allocation in North Yorkshire and York primary care trust is ring-fenced. [129369]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) are expected, as a minimum, to maintain levels of investment in national health service primary dental care services across their respective areas. If an individual PCT cannot maintain levels of expenditure, for example because of delays in securing replacement services where a dentist retires or leaves, the PCT should plan to restore full levels of service as soon as possible. If necessary, SHAs will be expected to move any unused resources to other PCTs for re-investment in dentistry.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* net primary dental service allocation and *(b)* allocation for possible patient charge income was for Hambleton and Richmondshire primary care trust in 2006-07; [129434]

(2) what the *(a)* net primary dental service allocation and *(b)* allocation for possible patient charge income was for Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale primary care trust in 2006-07; [129435]

(3) what the *(a)* net primary dental service allocation and *(b)* allocation for possible patient charge income was for Selby and York Primary Care Trust in 2006-07. [129436]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A table listing the Primary Dental Service Resource Allocations for 2006-07 for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England as at 31 July 2006 is available in the Library. This sets out the net allocations awarded to PCTs and the assumed gross budgets based on illustrative assumptions about levels of patient charge income for each PCT. Strategic health authorities agreed with their PCTs locally how these allocations would be redistributed within the new PCT areas that took effect from 1 October 2006.

Departments: Risk Register

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's risk register. [123387]

Andy Burnham: The Department's risk register is a live document. It is continuously updated as the basis of advice to top management in the Department about current and emerging risks to the Department's programme and the national health service, and what can be done to control and mitigate these risks. It also informs discussions between the Department and top management in the NHS about addressing key issues in policy, resourcing and service management. Putting the risk register in the public domain would be likely to reduce the detail and utility of its contents. This would inhibit the free and frank exchange of views about significant risks and their management, and inhibit the provision of advice to Ministers. We cannot therefore agree to place a copy of the current version of the register in the Library.

Depression

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W, on depression, who is responsible for *(a)* responding to and *(b)* following up recommendations made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on matters other than guidelines on clinical matters. [126186]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Research recommendations made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) are considered by the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme. The HTA programme ensures that high-quality research information on health technologies is produced in the most effective way for those who use, manage and provide care in the NHS. The programme is coordinated by the National Coordinating Centre for HTA on behalf of the Department's Research and Development Directorate.

The HTA programme and NICE are working closely together in order to increase uptake of NICE research recommendations and to increase the number of high-quality research recommendations coming to the programme for the benefit of the NHS and its patients. NICE research recommendations are recognised as important and are given special consideration in the HTA programme prioritisation processes.

Health Services: Irish Community

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sanctions are applicable to health bodies which fail to take account of the needs of the Irish community under the requirements of race equality schemes. [128208]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places specific duties on national health service trusts, primary care trusts, special health authorities and strategic health authorities. These include a requirement to publish a race equality scheme and to ensure that the organisation is taking account of the needs of minority ethnic communities, including the Irish community.

The Department has issued guidance setting out these accountabilities for NHS boards and the Healthcare Commission's inspection role includes an explicit focus on equality and diversity in their assessments of NHS organisations.

Like all public authorities, NHS organisations can be challenged in a High Court for failing to meet their duties under the Act and the Commission for Racial Equality can use its powers of formal investigation to enforce these duties.

The Department wrote to all NHS chief executives in January 2007 to remind them of their responsibilities under this legislation.

Health: Prisoners

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to *(a)* collect information on prisoners' health and *(b)* share such information with relevant primary care trusts on the release of prisoners. [127314]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Medical information in prison is managed in accordance with relevant legislation and the NHS code of practice on confidentiality.

A discrete patient clinical record is opened for every prisoner on first reception into custody and reasonable attempts made to merge this with records from previous periods in custody. Where possible, and with the prisoner's express consent, information from the prisoner's general practitioner (GP) or other relevant service he/she has recently been in contact with is also sought.

Last year, the Prison Service issued a mandatory instruction, "Prison Service Order 3050 Continuity of Healthcare for Prisoners", to prison governors to improve the continuity of healthcare received by prisoners between key stages of their imprisonment—particularly as they enter prison, transfer between prisons, attend court, and on release. A copy is available in the Library.

Offenders with continuing care needs should have relevant information about them communicated to their GP or other agency with responsibility for their care upon their release. Prisons are required to have written and observed guidelines in place setting out the procedures for reception, transfer and release, including:

Ensuring information on continuing care is conveyed to other establishments on transfer, to national health service hospitals for outpatient and inpatient appointments, and;

Information to ensure continuity of care is communicated, with the prisoner's consent, to a general practitioner and or other responsible community agencies on discharge.

In 2002, the Department published "Guidance On The Protection and Use Of Confidential Health Information In Prisons And Inter-Agency Information Sharing", which provides a framework for developing local agreements and inter-agency information sharing protocols to ensure that boundary-crossing processes work smoothly, are effectively managed and that patient and staff uncertainties about information sharing are reduced.

Hearing Impaired: Health Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* published of the effectiveness of open-ear technology for audiology service as advocated in the recent document "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England"; and if she will make a statement; [128201]

(2) if she will estimate the cost to the NHS of collating and publishing on a quarterly basis the waiting times for audiology services for each audiology department from GP referral to actual fitting for *(a)* first time fittings and *(b)* reassessments; and if she will make a statement. [128202]

Andy Burnham: Twelve national health service trusts have tested the open ear hearing aid technology. The findings from these sites will be published shortly as part of the good practice evidence and tools referenced in "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England".

Since January 2006, we have been collecting waiting time data for diagnostic tests/procedures, including audiology. The monthly diagnostic data for audiology consisted of waits for pure tone audiometry until October 2006 (published in December) when this was extended to cover all audiometry assessments.

We plan to consider later this year whether a national collection of referral to treatment waiting times for audiology services is necessary as part of the work underpinning "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England", published in March 2007, a copy of which is available in the Library.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the causes of the correlation between primary care trusts with low-age needs scores and health economies with greater distance from the six-month inpatient waiting time target reported in her Department's chief economist's report, "Explaining NHS deficits" published on 20 February. [127837]

Andy Burnham: The distance between several secondary sector service targets and the service initial positions in March 2003-04 is moderately correlated to the age/needs index: the PCT health economies with low age/needs had modestly further to travel to achieve the targets. However, numerous parts of the country with low age/needs did not have far to travel in meeting these targets. The correlation is not a perfect one (with correlation co-efficients ranging from -0.28 in the case of distance to the A&E four hour wait and age/needs to -0.13 in the case of distance to the outpatient booking targets and age/needs). The reasons behind the relationship are complex.

Secondary sector under-performance in low age/needs areas is likely to have existed for some time prior to March 2003-04. By raising the quality of care to uniform national standards, the Government have significantly improved the services provided to patients in these areas.

The age and need index, and the interactions between them, are currently being reviewed by independent academic researchers under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation. A new age and need adjustment for weighted capitation may emerge from this research for resource allocation in 2008-09.

Influenza

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2298W, on influenza: disease control, what observations the World Health Organisation representatives made on the likely availability of influenza vaccines from non-UK sources during a pandemic. [129625]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the context of exercise Winter Willow, the scenario required that manufacturing delays meant that pandemic specific vaccine would not be available to the United Kingdom during the first wave of the exercise pandemic and therefore use of such vaccine was not considered further in the context of the exercise. The views of the World Health Organization representatives were not sought on this aspect of the scenario during the exercise.

Maternity Services: Compensation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many maternity-related compensation claims there were in each year since 1995; [126166]

(2) how much her Department paid in compensation to patients in each year since 1995; and what proportion of such payments were for maternity-related claims. [126172]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Litigation Authority collects data on the obstetrics speciality, which includes maternity-related compensation claims. The following table shows how many claims there have been under the clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST) in each year since 1995, the number of obstetrics claims in each of those years, as well as total paid in compensation on all claims and total on all obstetrics claims. Claims are taken as the year in which the incident was reported to have occurred.

Payments made on settled claims and numbers of claims received by incident year for CNST obstetrics claims (including Category A[1] claims) as at 28 February 2007

Incident year[2]	*Number of obstetrics claims received*	*Number of claims received*	*Damages paid on settled obstetrics claims*	*Damages paid on all settled claims*	*Damages paid - percentage obstetrics claims of all claims*
1995-96	943	6,056	109,992,847	231,701,442	47.47
1996-97	975	5,958	114,298,044	219,068,052	52.17
1997-98	956	6,099	87,834,687	198,269,595	44.30
1998-99	913	6,196	71,266,303	204,880,312	34.78
1999-2000	782	5,622	65,123,682	169,943,116	38.32
2000-01	753	5,515	27,306,108	131,087,657	20.83
2001-02	641	5,069	11,456,127	104,175,586	11.00
2002-03	664	5,220	8,929,192	53,794,385	16.60
2003-04	609	4,591	2,966,080	21,882,220	13.55
2004-05	412	3,046	1,283,844	8,982,119	14.29
2005-06	238	1,821	309,507	1,877,238	16.49
2006-07	29	352	0	113,786	0.00
Total	7,915	55,545	500,766,421	1,345,775,557	37.21

[1] Category A claims are those that fell within the excess claim limit and were handled by individual trusts before the excess was removed in 2002.
[2] Claims have been considered in the year that the incident occurred.
Notes:
1. Claims may still be made for incidents that have yet to be reported within the stated years.
4. Category A claims were handled by individual trusts and reported to the NHS Litigation Authority. Therefore, the NHS Litigation Authority cannot 100 per cent. validate the accuracy of the data around these claims as the data was not produced by the NHS Litigation Authority.

Musgrove Park Hospital: Waiting Lists

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* in-patient, *(b)* day cases and *(c)* out-patient appointments in Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton, in each year since 1992. [128744]

Andy Burnham: The median waiting times for in-patient, day cases and out-patient appointments in the Taunton and Somerset national health service trust in each year since 1992 are shown in the following table.

Provider based median waiting time information for Taunton and Somerset NHS trust, March 1992 to December 2006

	Median waiting time (weeks) for stage of treatment		
	In-patient admission-ordinary	*In-patient admission-day case*	*First out-patient appointment*
March			
1992	14.3	10.6	n/a
1993	14.2	10.4	n/a
1994	13.4	10.2	4.5
1995	11.8	8.8	5.2
1996	10.4	8.4	6.4
1997	14.8	10.2	6.5

Provider based median waiting time information for Taunton and Somerset NHS trust, March 1992 to December 2006

	Median waiting time (weeks) for stage of treatment		
	In-patient admission-ordinary	In-patient admission-day case	First out-patient appointment
1998	17.2	10.2	6.5
1999	17.3	9.8	6.6
2000	19.8	11.7	7.2
2001	16.9	11.4	6.6
2002	19.3	12.3	7.1
2003	11.0	9.8	8.3
2004	11.1	9.0	6.8
2005	9.4	7.1	6.5
2006	7.5	5.1	6.0
December 2006	6.1	4.8	5.2

Notes:
No out-patient data was collected before the financial year 1993-94.
In-patient waiting time based on median wait of those still waiting at end of period. Out-patient waiting times based on time waited for those seen during the quarter.
Source:
Department of Health, KH07 and QM08s

NHS Bodies and Premises: Inspections

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations have the authority to conduct inspections of *(a)* NHS bodies and NHS premises and *(b)* her Department; and from where that authority is derived in each case. [107387]

Andy Burnham: A range of organisations have authority to conduct inspections in those areas, some of which fall within the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Health, and others, such as the police, do not. The authority to conduct inspections is similarly derived from a range of sources.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of calls to NHS Direct were referred to *(a)* 999 and *(b)* an accident and emergency department in each quarter since December 2002. [127823]

Andy Burnham: The information is shown in the following table

Financial year	Number of calls answered[1]	Number of calls referred to 999 services by NHS Direct[2]	Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to 999	Number of calls referred to accident and emergency (A and E)[3]	Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to A and E
2002-03					
Q4	1,609,663	52,765	3.3	105,230	6.5
2003-04					
Q1	1,655,618	49,065	3.0	106,974	6.5
Q2	1,524,876	50,860	3.3	109,361	7.2
Q3	1,628,297	57,681	3.5	98,794	6.1
Q4	1,595,687	58,948	3.7	106,576	6.7
2004-05					
Q1	1,596,680	58,583	3.7	104,427	6.5
Q2	1,550,490	56,105	3.6	94,873	6.1
Q3	1,688,245	62,673	3.7	94,189	5.6
Q4	1,748,935	62,000	3.5	91,395	5.2
2005-06					
Q1	1,705,750	59,261	3.5	99,764	5.8
Q2	1,626,366	55,685	3.4	97,610	6.0
Q3	1,723,708	62,046	3.6	98,766	5.7
Q4	1,755,927	61,005	3.5	97,115	5.5
2006-07					
Q1	1,654,436	50,458	3.0	97,575	5.9

Financial year	Number of calls answered[1]	Number of calls referred to 999 services by NHS Direct[2]	Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to 999	Number of calls referred to accident and emergency (A and E)[3]	Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to A and E
Q2	1,501,597	46,989	3.1	92,483	6.2
Q3	1,447,940	49,528	3.4	84,922	5.9

[1] Definition of volume: calls answered-number of calls answered/handled after the introductory message.
[2] Calls referred to ambulance or paramedic services.
[3] Calls where patients are asked to attend an A and E department.
Source:
NHS Direct Special Health Authority

NHS: Equal Opportunities

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to launch a website cataloguing best practice to support those introducing gender equality duties in the NHS. [126725]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has already produced guidance for national health service organisations that have a duty to implement the forthcoming gender equality duty.

"Creating a Gender Equality Scheme: A practical guide for the NHS" is posted on the Department website and includes examples of good practice in both service and workforce areas. The Department has also recently launched single equality scheme web guidance "10 Steps to Your SES" to support NHS organisations to comply with all existing and emerging public sector duties in a coherent and cross cutting way. This also provides the opportunity for NHS organisations to share examples of best practice on an ongoing basis.

Nitrous Oxide: Health Hazards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been hospitalised as a consequence of inhaling nitrous oxide since 1997. [125165]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the availability of nitrous oxide for recreational use. [125166]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with the Home Secretary on this subject.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have issued a press release warning nightclubs and festivals of the health risks of inhaling nitrous oxide, reminding them of their responsibilities and the prospects of legal action should they allow the sale of nitrous oxide on their property.

Nurses: Schools

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many school nurses or full-time equivalents there were in Northamptonshire in each year from 2000 to 2006. [124892]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available in the format required.

Data available for the numbers of school nurses or full-time equivalents in Northamptonshire for 2004-05 are shown in the following table.

	2004		2005	
	Qualified school nursing nurses	Of which: qualified school nurses[1]	Qualified school nursing nurses	Of which: qualified school nurses[1]
Headcount				
Daventry and South Northamptonshire primary care trust	6	6	5	5
Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT	24	18	23	18
Total specified organisations	30	24	28	23
Full-time equivalent				
Daventry and South Northamptonshire PCT	3	3	2	2
Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT	14	11	14	11
Total specified organisations	17	14	16	13

[1] Qualified school nurses hold the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) specialist practice qualification with an outcome in school nursing, which is a recordable qualification on the NMC register.
Notes:
1. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. School nursing nurses have only been collected from 2004 as a separate category.
3. It should be further noted that, as data is not centrally held below PCT level, figures are not available for the parts of Northamptonshire which previously fell within Cherwell Vale PCT and South Peterborough PCT.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census

Parkinson's Disease: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Parkinson's disease specialist nurses there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997. [125491]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Pembury Hospital

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why the figure for the cost of the Pembury hospital private finance initiative Scheme, as used by the Minister of State in her letter to hon. Members representing Kent constituencies of 26 February 2007, differs from the figure given by the Prime Minister in his oral answer of 19 July 2006. [129776]

Andy Burnham: The principal reason for the change to the capital values of the scheme at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells national health service trust was that in October 2006 the scheme was subject to a Departmental reappraisal. A key part of this was an assessment of the capacity assumptions to ascertain if these were realistic and properly suited to the needs of the local health economy; and a review of the estate in terms of current and planned building stock to ensure optimal use. This led the trust to reconsider how the scheme could best be structured in order to deliver services in the most cost-effective way and ensure long-term viability, and the capital value of the scheme was reduced accordingly.

In addition, the figure given by the Prime Minister included the cost of the mental health element of the scheme, which is being funded by the Kent and Medway Partnership and Social Care Trust. The Secretary of State's letter gave a figure that related exclusively to the acute element of the scheme.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking *(a)* to facilitate and *(b)* to monitor the implementation of the Prostate Cancer Equality Action Plan. [128488]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Good progress has been made in considering the recommendations of the Prostate Cancer Charter for action's tackling prostate cancer in black and minority ethnic (BME) groups report. The recommendations were included for consideration in the cancer equality action plan, which fed into the Department action plan to support the publication of the Single Equality Scheme on 4 December 2006. Specifically:

the cancer action team have appointed to the post of Associate Director—Patient Experience. This post is being funded by the National Audit Office, and the postholder begins work on 1 April 2007. Responsibilities will cover equality issues as follows:

provide leadership on BME issues within the cancer action team;

promote the establishment of a forum of the key stakeholders working with BME communities and work with them to facilitate the sharing of good practice; and

work with key stakeholders and selected cancer networks to develop best practice guidance for cancer networks (including needs of local population, awareness raising, information and support for patients, end of life care and promote the implementation of guidance).

public awareness pilot—the pilot took place in Coventry in October 2006, and draft quantitative and qualitative evaluation reports have been received. These are being considered by the prostate cancer advisory group's (PCAG) public awareness working group, who will advise the main PCAG on implementation of the findings in June 2007;

prostate cancer risk management programme (PCRMP)—the higher risk of prostate cancer for men of black origin will be included in revised PCRMP materials, due for relaunch in March 2008; and

research—follow up studies to the prostate cancer in ethnic subgroups (PROCESS) study are being actively developed.

The Department's cancer policy team are facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the tackling prostate cancer in BME groups report, and the other recommendations will be considered with the cancer action team Associate Director-Patient Experience in due course.

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedures she has put in place to ensure that men with prostate cancer are given information on *(a)* local support groups and *(b)* national charities involved with prostate cancer; [128514]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that men have an informed choice when making decisions about their treatment for prostate cancer. [128522]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published "Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers", including prostate cancer, in September 2002. The guidance recommends that the treatment each patient receives should be tailored to fit his individual values and situation, so it is essential that patients are actively involved in decision making. This requires that they receive adequate and accurate information, both through meetings with members of the multi-disciplinary team, and in published forms so that they can study at home. Patients should be given sufficient time to consider all the options available to them.

To support this, a number of initiatives are under way:

The cancer services collaborative Improvement Partnership patient information project team has been working with cancer networks since 2003 to help them develop the resources and processes they need to provide a co-ordinated network wide approach to patient information delivery. A website has now been launched to support networks in improving patient information delivery by providing guidance and resources.

The Government will introduce Information Prescriptions for everyone with a long term condition or care need by 2008. This commitment is part of the 2006 White Paper "Our Health Our Care Our Say". The information prescriptions pilots, which will trial the initiative, were announced on 18 October 2006. The pilot includes four sites focusing on cancer, and will run until the end of 2007.

From 2004 to 2005 the Action on Urology programme hosted a project designed to pilot the implementation of decision aids into routine practice in the national health service. The decision aid programme was introduced into four NHS hospital trusts in England, into either one or both of two urology pathways early-stage localised prostate cancer and benign prostatic hyperplasia. Phase one identified a range of improvements which participants felt should be made before the package was rolled out nationally. Phase two has been established to address these amendments in a further six pilot sites. It is planned that a final range of decision making tools will be ready for general issue across England by March 2008.

The Department has collaborated with signatories to the prostate cancer charter for action to develop UK Prostate Link, the first comprehensive online source of information of its kind, to help prostate cancer patients, their families and

health professionals to access the quality information they need about prostate cancer. The website address is: www.prostate-link.org.uk

Patient information and decision support are also being taken forward by the patient experience working group as part of the development of the cancer reform strategy.

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to raise awareness of prostate cancer. [128524]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Raising the awareness of prostate cancer is a key challenge. We want men to know what their prostate is, what it does, and what can go wrong with it. However, we have to raise awareness in a responsible way so as not to cause undue anxiety and worry. That is why we teamed up with the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action to fund a pilot public awareness programme of the prostate, and that is why we are also making raising awareness a key strand of the new Cancer Reform Strategy.

The pilot public awareness programme on the prostate and its function took place in Coventry in October 2006, and an independent evaluation is now assessing the effectiveness of the messages used in the pilot, the interventions used to promote the messages, and the impact the pilot has had on national health service services. Draft reports of the evaluation are being considered by the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group's (PCAG) public awareness working group, who will advise the main PCAG on implementation of the findings in June 2007.

The Department provided £100,000 towards the pilot and the evaluation, with signatories to the Charter providing a further £50,000 towards the pilot.

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to revise the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme; and what the timescale is for the revision. [128526]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The formal evaluation of the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP) was undertaken between 2004 and 2006 by the Cancer Research UK Primary Care Education Research Group. Based on the results of the evaluation, the group has now begun work on revising the PCRMP materials. The group are looking to appoint to a dedicated post to continue the revision, and will begin work shortly on an update of the formal literature review that informed the original PCRMP packs. We are also ensuring that revisions to the PCRMP are consistent with the development of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Clinical Guide on the Diagnosis and Management of Prostate Cancer.

The review will also involve discussions with key stakeholders in the voluntary sector. We are committed to involving key stakeholders in policy development. That is why the Prostate Cancer Advisory Group (PCAG), chaired by Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, has representation from signatories to the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action, including the Prostate Cancer Charity.

A consultation on the revised PCRMP materials will take place in autumn 2007, with a re-launch of the packs in March 2008.

Prostate Cancer: North East Region

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department's *(a)* 31 and *(b)* 62 day waiting time target for prostate cancer was met in Newcastle and Gateshead in the latest period for which figures are available. [128521]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data collected centrally by the Department to monitor cancer waiting times does not separately identify those patients diagnosed with prostate cancer. However, for the period October to December 2006, data for the Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust and the Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust shows that they achieved 100 per cent. and 99.6 per cent. respectively for the all cancer 31 day diagnosis to treatment standard. For the same period, these trusts achieved 96.6 per cent. and 96.1 per cent. respectively for the 62 day referral to treatment standard for all cancers.

Surgery

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* inpatient and *(b)* day case procedures were carried out in each year since 1997-98 (i) in England and (ii) in each NHS trust (A) for both elective and non-elective procedures and (B) for elective procedures only. [127834]

Andy Burnham: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Voter Turnout

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the voter turnout has been in elections for foundation trusts in 2006. [113413]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally and no longer collected by Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of National Health Service foundation trusts). Information relating to the elections to the governing bodies of individual NHS foundation trusts can be obtained by contacting the chairmen of the respective trusts.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Postal Voting

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the Government have any further plans to conduct polls wholly by postal vote. [129422]

Bridget Prentice: The Department has no plans to conduct polls wholly by postal vote.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she expects the Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs; the hon. and learned Member for Redcar (Vera Baird) to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 18 January 2007 (Ref:83269/231), on legal aid. [129379]

Vera Baird: I replied to the hon. Member on 22 March. I apologise for the delay.

Reports

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the Government expects to respond to *(a)* the eleventh report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life and *(b)* the report of the Electoral Commission dated 19 March 2007. [129438]

Bridget Prentice: In respect of the Government's response to the eleventh report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 234W, to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald). The report of the Electoral Commission dated 19 March is the Commission's response to the CSPL's report. The Government will take this and responses from other stakeholders into account in considering the recommendations of the CSPL.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what change is being made in Barnet college's grant for adult training; how many placements at Barnet college have been made by brokers through the train to gain institution; and if he will make a statement. [126582]

Bill Rammell: We have increased investment in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2005. We are spending more on adult learning that ever before, over £3 billion in 2007-08, up 7 per cent. on 2005-06,

In 2007-08, investment in our new national employer programme, train to gain will increase by £300 million to £460 million between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Nearly 150 colleges and nearly 200 training providers successfully bid for train to gain contracts in 2006-07. FE allocations and train to gain together will offer 82 per cent. of all colleges the opportunity to earn more than in 2005-06, with 45 per cent. earning 5 per cent. or more.

Information on the impact on individual colleges and train to gain performance data are not held centrally by the Department but Mark Haysom, as the chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council, has written directly to my hon. Friend with answers to these questions, A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, about what change is being made in Barnet college's grant for adult training; how many placements at Barnet college have been made by brokers through the train to gain institution; and if he will make a statement.

The 19+ adult allocations for 2007-08 for any provider have yet to be agreed however the following allocations were made in the last two academic years:

2005-06 Barnet college was allocated £14,759,408 for 19+ learners

2006-07 Barnet college was allocated £14,525,033 for 19+ learners

2007-08 allocations for 19+ learners have yet to be agreed.

Barnet college does not directly engage with train to gain but operates as a sub-contractor for two other lead contractors—four counties training and the college of North East London. The data therefore is a combined total for the two as all operational data goes through the consortia leads.

Skills Brokers identify learners within an organisation—some of which may be funded by train to gain discrete funding but others who may not—for instance those learners who already have a Level 2 or equivalent qualification would not be eligible for full subsidy. However the learners with a Level 2 would still be able to access training either at full cost or via further education mainstream funding with the employer making an appropriate contribution to costs. Therefore the skills broker will estimate what level of learners may be "Train to Gain" but the employer's choice of provider will then identify specifically eligibility.

Therefore from August 2006 to January 2007 skills brokers identified 510 learners who may have been eligible to the two consortia leads out of which 160 have actually started provision under train to gain discrete funding. However this is a dynamic process many of the 510 could still be being assessed and preparing to enter train to gain discrete provision or other provision and certainly there are increases in activity as the service gains momentum therefore these figures are probably underestimates.

I hope this response is helpful to you.

Employment Schemes: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many visits to employers have been made by brokers promoting the Train to Gain programme in London; how many people have been placed as a result of those visits; whether brokers are paid on the basis of *(a)* visits to employers and *(b)* placements achieved; how much has been paid to brokers; and if he will make a statement; [126583]

(2) what progress has been made in London with the Train to Gain programme; and if he will make a statement. [126584]

Phil Hope: Detailed Train to Gain performance data are not held centrally by the Department but are collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom, as the LSC chief executive, has written directly to my hon. Friend with answers to these questions, A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your Secretary of State for Education and Skills, how many visits to employers have been made by brokers promoting the Train to Gain programme in London; how many people have been placed as a result of those

visits; whether brokers are paid on the basis of (a) visits to employers and (b) placements achieved; how much has been paid to brokers.

Skills Brokers in the London Region have made 2,436 engagements with employers from August 2006 to January 2007. Some of these engagements would be via telephone as opposed to a visit but would be some form of meaningful discussion beyond simple contact. Out of these engagements 1,548 are designated as "Hard to Reach" being employers defined as those without Investors in People recognition and have not invested in any vocational training leading to a qualification within the last 12 months.

Train to Gain Skills Brokers in London have made approximately 15,500 individual learner referrals to date for all types of learning provision including some at full cost to the employer as well as that funded by the LSC. Out of those individual learner referrals approximately 5,000 are related to Level 2 provision. This is a dynamic process and placement of these learners is ongoing. The Train to Gain service is still within its initial launch stage and evaluation of conversions from referrals to learners starting programmes is taking place to identify lessons learned and good practice.

Skills Brokers in London have been paid a total of £2.5 million to date. The cost of each employer engagement averages approximately £670.

This would include activity such as initial marketing, visits, organisational needs analysis, identifying development opportunities and solutions for the business, sourcing training provision possibly across a range of providers, ongoing monitoring of both the business relationship and learner progress and maintaining contact for potential repeat business and support for the future.

I hope this response is helpful to you.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, about what progress has been made in London with the Train to Gain programme.

The Train to Gain service in London has enabled 4,534 learners to start LSC funded provision directly linked to Train to Gain. There have been discussions and referrals to many other organisations in addition to these learners. 1,548 employers have been actively engaged in discussions about developing their staff where this had not occurred within at least the last twelve months—probably longer. This has been achieved in only 6 months of the Skills Brokerage service being launched and the increase in activity has been considerable. Therefore it is confidently anticipated to make an increasing impact on the developmental activities of employers in the London Region during 2007.

I hope this response is helpful to you.

English Language: Education

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the planned budget is for English for speakers of other languages provision over the next five years. [127896]

Bill Rammell: Since 2001, the funding for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) has been provided through the skills for life strategy in response to regional and local demand.

The expectation is that next year's spending on ESOL will be broadly comparable to this year at around £279 million. The budget for the next five years will be dependent upon the comprehensive spending review after which all priorities will be re-assessed.

Higher Education Funding Council

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what activities the Higher Education Funding Council for England undertook overseas in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [126737]

Bill Rammell: The overseas activities undertaken by HEFCE are given in the following tables.

2003-04: HEFCE staff who made following visits

Country	*Number of HEFCE staff*	*Activity*
USA	4	Conferences
Japan	1	Project workshop
Belgium	3	Euro policy workshop
New Zealand and Australia	2	Conferences
France	3	OECD project workshop
Thailand	1	Conference
India	2	Policy forum
Japan	2	Policy forum
China	3	OECD project
Italy	2	Conference
Taiwan	1	Ministry visit
Iceland	1	Conference
Germany	1	Conference
Netherlands	1	Conference
Switzerland	1	Conference

Notes:
In addition HEFCE part funded:
(a) (with British Council) an Education manager post at British Council in Beijing,
(b) (with the Ministry of Education, China) an HE Leadership Development project,
(c) (with the Ministry of Education, Thailand) an HE Policy Forum,
(d) (with OECD and other countries) an HE financial management project

2004-05: HEFCE staff made the following visits:

Country	*Number of HEFCE staff*	*Activity*
France	1	Conference
USA	3	Conferences
Chile	2	Conference
New Zealand and Australia	3	Conferences and study visits
Belgium	1	Conference
Germany	2	Conference
Netherlands	1	Conference
Belgium	7	Study visit
Slovakia	2	Policy seminar
Sri Lanka	1	Study visit
Taiwan	1	Ministry visit
Finland	1	Study visit
Austria	1	Conference

Notes:
In addition HEFCE part funded:
(a) (with British Council) an Education manager post at British Council in Beijing,
(b) (with the Ministry of Education, China) an HE Leadership Development project,
(c) (with OECD and other countries) an HE financial management project
(d) a seminar in Australia as part of a project overseen by the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

2005-06: HEFCE staff made the following visits:

Country	Number of HEFCE staff	Activity
France	1	Conference
USA	4	Conferences
New Zealand	2	Conference
Belgium	1	Conference
Netherlands	1	Conference
Japan	2	Policy seminar
China	4	Conferences and project workshops
Sweden	3	Study visit and conference
Spain	1	Conference

Notes:
In addition HEFCE part funded:
(a) (with British Council) an Education manager post at British Council in Beijing.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library the secondary curriculum programmes of study and level descriptions produced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) secondary curriculum review as approved by the QCA board on 14 December 2006. [128805]

Jim Knight: On 14 December, the QCA Board considered and endorsed drafts of programmes of study and level descriptions. A number of minor changes were made to these drafts following the Board meeting before final versions were recommended to the Department for consultation on 18 January. Copies of the final versions have already been placed in the Library.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) publishes the agendas and minutes of its Board meetings on its website.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Domestic Violence

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of domestic violence were recorded in each Police Service of Northern Ireland District Command Unit in each of the last three years. [128115]

Paul Goggins: PSNI have provided the following table which details statistics relating to the number of incidents with a domestic motivation, broken down by DCU, Urban and Rural Region, during each of the last three years.

Incidents with a domestic motivation

	Total number of incidents		
	2004-05	2005-06	1 April 2006 to 31 January 2007[1]
Urban region			
Antrim	628	706	517
Ards	728	843	880
East Belfast	1,246	1,336	1,294
North Belfast	1,843	2,157	1,905
South Belfast	853	999	760
West Belfast	1,986	1,113	980
Carrickfergus	364	480	360
Castlereagh	617	432	437
Lame	293	313	263
Lisburn	1,782	1,551	1,529
Newtownabbey	863	973	818
North Down	774	919	747
Urban Region	11,077	11,822	10,490
Rural region			
Armagh	353	482	394
Ballymena	580	584	447
Ballymoney	255	272	190
Banbridge	346	431	362
Coleraine	824	1,072	1,026
Cookstown	446	503	342
Craigavon	1,233	1,403	1,238
Down	363	670	667
Dungannon and South Tyrone	323	406	416
Fermanagh	518	609	484
Foyle	1,921	1,691	1,294
Limavady	392	460	480
Magherafelt	448	345	303
Moyle	102	128	119
Newry and Mourne	617	960	800
Omagh	666	723	668
Strabane	495	498	411
Rural region	9,882	11,237	9,641
Northern Ireland	20,959	23,059	20,131

[1] Figures are provisional and may be subject to revision.
Note:
Domestic motivated incidents cover all such occurrences, whether a crime has been committed or not.
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of domestic violence related offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and what sentence was imposed in each case in which no legal proceedings are active. [128116]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI are unable to provide the conviction statistics as requested. However, the following table details statistics relating to incidents, offences recorded and offences cleared[1] for domestically motivated incidents in each of the last three years.

[1] A crime may be cleared by any of the following: taken into consideration; charged; summons issued; adult caution; adult informed warning; juvenile informed warning; juvenile restorative caution; juvenile prosecutorial diversion; under age; complainant declined to prosecute, no prosecution directed and offender died before proceedings.

Domestic motivation: incidents, recorded crimes and clearance rates

Northern Ireland	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[2]	*1 April 2006-31 January 2007*[1,2]
Incidents recorded	20,959	23,059	20,131
Offences recorded	8,508	10,768	8,689
Offences cleared	6,201	8,350	3,713
Cleared by means of:			
Charge/Summons	1,070	2,367	2,282
Other means of clearance	5,131	5,983	1,429
Percentage clearance rate	72.9	77.5	42.7

[1] Breaches of non-molestation orders have been counted as offences in Northern Ireland under Home Office Counting Rules since 1 April 2005. Therefore it is not feasible to make a comparison with the figures for 2004-05.
[2] These figures are provisional and may be subject to revision.
Notes:
Domestic motivated incidents cover all such occurrences, whether a crime has been committed or not. When using incident figures in conjunction with crime figures.
Domestic motivated crimes are included within the incident figures, and that more than one crime may be recorded in a single incident.
Domestic crime figures do not include assault on police.

Local Government Reorganisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 94W, on local government reorganisation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the consultants' report. [119529]

Mr. Hanson: Arrangements will be made to place a copy of the consultants report in the Library.

Sexuality: Equality

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many representations his Department has received *(a)* in support of and *(b)* in opposition to the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006; and if he will make a statement on the implementation of the Regulations in Northern Ireland. [129511]

Mr. Hanson: The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister received 373 responses to the consultation on the regulations. Question one to that consultation asked; do you agree that the new sexual orientation Regulations should apply to goods, facilities and services? The Department received 27 responses to that question; 26 supported the introduction of the regulations and one opposed.

In addition, the Department received 287 responses to the questions concerning the application of a religious exemption. Of these, 272 expressed a desire for inclusion of an exemption for religious organisations and expressed views on the extent of that exemption, but did not express outright opposition to the regulations; 15 argued for no exemptions at all.

The Department has also received 693 correspondence cases on the subject. Of these, three have expressed their support for the regulations. The rest have expressed either opposition, or sought amendments, to the regulations.

The regulations came into operation on 1 January 2007 and their implementation will be overseen by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland who will issue guidance on them.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have made representations to her Department stating that their additional funding for concessionary bus travel is insufficient to meet their new costs. [129243]

Mr. Woolas: During the recent consultation on the 2007-08 local government finance settlement, the following local authorities and local authority groups made representations on the amount of funding for concessionary fares being insufficient to meet costs:

London borough of Havering
Blackpool council
Unitary Special Interest Group
East Dorset district council
Torbay council
Gateshead council
Nuneaton and Bedworth district council
Leeds city council
Stockton-on-Tees borough council
Brent borough council
Shrewsbury and Atcham district council
Preston city council
South Norfolk district council
Society of District Council Treasurers
London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
East Riding of Yorkshire council
Greater Merseyside councils
Ealing council
Gloucester city council
Windsor and Maidenhead council
Haringey council
Bournemouth borough council
Croydon borough council

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from what date council tax bills for a new year are liable. [129248]

Mr. Woolas: The earliest date that an instalment of council tax may become due is 1 April of the financial year to which it relates, subject to demand notices being served at least fourteen days prior to that date.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 February 2007,

Official Report, columns 13-17WS, on departmental expenditure limits, what the purpose was of the provision of £5,000,000 for the Combined Universities of Cornwall of funding from the Development of English Regions programme. [129265]

Angela E. Smith: The £5,000,000 referred to is a contribution to the match funding needed to enable the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) to access funding from the European Regional Development Fund Objective 1 programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, to support phase two of the project to develop the CUC.

Departments: Climate Change

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on her Department's contribution to tackling climate change. [128225]

Angela E. Smith: My Department is fully committed to playing our role in the Government's strategy on climate change. Recent improvements we have made to the energy efficiency of building regulations, have, for example, reduced energy use by around 40 per cent. Compared to pre-2002 levels. And we have recently consulted on making all new homes zero carbon by 2016—which together with our new Code for Sustainable Homes and our new draft planning policy statement on climate change—could save between 5 and 7 million tonnes of carbon by 2020. Further details on the Department's climate change policy can be found at:

www.communities.gsi.gov.uk.

For the year 2005-06 this Department was ranked fifth out of 19 Departments by the Sustainable Development Commission for its environmental performance across its estate.

Departments: Complaints

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many formal complaints were made to her Department on the conduct of *(a)* the Department and *(b)* individual members of staff in the last 12 months. [128469]

Angela E. Smith: There have been four complaints made to the Department in the period from March 2006 to February 2007—I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1784W.

Over the same period there have been four formal complaints made about the conduct of individual members of staff during that period. These are currently subject to action under the formal complaints procedures set out in the staff handbook.

Departments: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which databases in her Department are *(a)* owned, *(b)* internally managed and *(c)* managed or maintained by external firms or consultants. [129192]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 2 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 619W.

Departments: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what strategy she has put in place for *(a)* the use of renewable energy and *(b)* meeting energy targets in her Department's buildings; and if she will make a statement. [125410]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government published its energy strategy in May 2006. The strategy was a response to specific energy targets relating to carbon emissions and energy efficiency that Government Departments were mandated to meet. We have worked with the Carbon Trust, using their expertise to assist us in identifying improved methods of working and projects that will enable us to improve our use of energy and to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions. We are implementing our Energy efficiency Action Plan for our London HQ buildings and our progress against the targets is published annually by the Sustainable Development Commission.

Departments are also mandated to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources by March 2008.

Communities and Local Government's HQ estate currently obtains 99 per cent. of its electricity from renewable sources. The remaining 1 per cent. is provided by our landlord in a multi-occupancy building as part of the service charge, and they have no proposals to change this arrangement.

CLG's agencies obtain 52 per cent. of their electricity from renewable sources; at this time they have no plans to increase this percentage, although the situation is reviewed annually. This review takes into consideration factors such as cost, market forces and Government commitments.

Equal Opportunities Commission: Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will break down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age, *(c)* disability and *(d)* ethnic background the number of staff in the Equal Opportunities Commission. [129268]

Angela E. Smith: According to the Equal Opportunities Commission's annual report 2005-06, the staff breakdown is as follows:

	Number
(a) Sex	
Female	135
Male	30
(b) Age	
18-21	3
22-40	81
41-65	85
65+	0

	Number
(c) Disability	10
(d) Ethnic origin	
White	152
Non-whites—Mixed, Asian, Black and Chinese	13

Government Contracts: Equality

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* sponsored public bodies has produced on making the award of public contracts conditional on the bidding private sector firms meeting equality or diversity criteria or targets. [128558]

Angela E. Smith: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department

The Corporate Procurement Division (CPD) dictates Procurement Policy and provides Guidance for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This Guidance is not mandatory for DCLG Agencies and DCLG sponsored public bodies but is a source of best practice and incorporates material from other sources, including the Office of Government Commerce and the Commission of Racial Equality.

This Guidance outlines the scope to take account of social considerations, such as equality and diversity issues, in the procurement process in line with the European procurement rules and the Government's procurement policy based on value for money. In order to be consistent with the procurement policy and legal framework, using the meeting of equality or diversity criteria or targets as Tender evaluation criteria is permissible when they are of relevance to the function or service being carried out.

DCLG procurement policy is to evaluate the Sustainability aspects of each procurement at the earliest stage, to identify if equality, diversity criteria or similar can be used as evaluation tools to determine the award of Contract.

(b) Agencies

DCLG Agencies have not issued any Guidance of their own on this issue. They refer to departmental guidance (a) in this respect.

(c) Sponsored Public Bodies

Of DCLG sponsored public bodies, several indicate they have not issued any Guidance of their own on this issue. They refer to departmental guidance (a) in this respect.

Greenbelt: South East Region

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on the amount of Green Belt land in the South East of the proposals in the South East Regional Spatial Strategy. [129277]

Meg Munn: The policies contained in the South East Regional Spatial Strategy, including those relating to the greenbelt are currently being tested through an independent panel, their report is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State in July 2007.

It would not at this time, be appropriate to comment as to whether those polices would affect the amount of greenbelt in the South East.

Housing: Water Temperature

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to introduce water temperature control in new homes. [129662]

Angela E. Smith: All aspects of hot water safety, including temperature control, will be considered in the next review of part G of the Building Regulations.

We are currently undertaking a review of the building control system as a whole which will include our future approach to the review of the regulations. I expect to make a preliminary announcement on this within the next few weeks and to issue a consultation paper later in the year. It is not therefore possible at this point to say when the next review of part G will take place but I am clear that once we have agreed a way forward it should be a priority.

In the meantime my officials have been working with industry to provide plumbers and housing managers with information on the hazards presented by certain types of water heating systems and guidance on how to minimise these. We will continue to do this to ensure that the issues are understood and acted upon as widely as possible.

Local Government Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the causes of recent trends in public satisfaction with council services. [129199]

Mr. Woolas: The main source of data on recent trends in public satisfaction with council services is the Best Value performance indicator surveys for England 2006-07.

These are only available at the aggregate level for upper-tier authorities at this stage and show:

51 per cent. satisfied with the overall performance of the local authority—a decline of 2 percentage points since 2003-04.

32 per cent. of complainants satisfied with the handling of their complaints—an improvement of 1 percentage point since 2003-04.

64 per cent. satisfied with the cleanliness standard (keeping land clear of litter and waste) in their area—an improvement of 9 percentage points since 2003-04.

79 per cent. satisfied with household waste collection—a decline of 2 percentage points since 2003-04.

66 per cent. satisfied with waste recycling (local facilities)—an improvement of 5 percentage points since 2003-04.

79 per cent. satisfied with waste disposal (local tips)—an improvement of 4 percentage points since 2003.

54 per cent. satisfaction with local transport information—an improvement of 6 percentage points since 2003-04.

60 per cent. satisfied with local bus services—an improvement of 6 percentage points since 2003-04.

55 per cent. satisfied with sports and leisure facilities—an improvement of 3 percentage points since 2003-04.

71 per cent. satisfied with libraries—an improvement of 4 percentage points since 2003-04.

43 per cent. satisfied with museums and galleries—a decline of 1 percentage point since 2003-04.

44 per cent. satisfied with theatres and concert halls—a decline of 3 percentage points since 2003-04.

72 per cent. satisfied with parks and open spaces an improvement of 2 percentage points since 2003-04.

No aggregate 2006-07 results are available yet for district councils as these data have not been fully validated and published. Similarly, because the 2006-07 average for all councils in England uses single and upper-tier data, these satisfaction figures are also not available yet.

Given this substantial dataset of approximately 210,000 respondents only became available earlier this year, detailed statistical analysis of the causes of these trends is in its earliest stages. Work to date has concentrated on potential drivers of overall satisfaction with local government rather than individual services. This has shown that communication by local government is important—the more informed people feel the more satisfied they are with their local authority. Similarly, participation and empowerment are significant—the more satisfied people are with opportunities to participate and their level of influence in local decision-making the more satisfied they are with their local authority. Performance is also critical—the higher the CPA star category of an authority and the higher its direction of travel assessment the more satisfied people are. There are also variations in satisfaction by age and gender and direct experience of services—older people tend to be more satisfied as do women and those who are direct users of local government services. Lastly, overall satisfaction with an area is strongly associated with satisfaction with the council.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the overall public satisfaction figures for *(a)* all local authorities and *(b)* each tier of local authority as collected by her Department and its predecessors' best value performance surveys were in each year that they have been collected. [129215]

Mr. Woolas: The overall public satisfaction figures from the best value performance indicator surveys for England for *(a)* all authorities in England and *(b)* each tier of local government for the years in which these data have been collected are as follows:

2000-01 and 2003-04 overall satisfaction (BVPI3) results for all local authorities in England, plus 2006-07 results for single tier and county councils only—"Taking everything into account how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way authority run things?"

	Percentage satisfied		
	2000-01	2003-04	2006-07
All councils in England	65	55	[1]—
Single tier and county council average	61	53	51
County councils	62	54	50
Unitary authorities	62	52	50
Metropolitan boroughs	62	54	52
London boroughs	55	52	54
District councils	68	56	[1]—

[1] No result is available yet because aggregate 2006-07 data for district councils have not been fully validated and published. Similarly, because the 2006-07 average for all councils in England uses single and upper-tier data, this figure is also not available yet.

These figures were published in a summary report of the 2006-07 BVPI user satisfaction survey results for upper-tier authorities only. This report can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1506089.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether municipal recycling facilities are subject to business rates; [129216]

(2) whether car parks are subject to business rates. [129217]

Mr. Woolas: Yes.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the ordnance survey technology tracking system reports from the last 12 months. [129257]

Angela E. Smith: Ordnance survey did not produce any technology tracking system reports in 2006.

Ordnance Survey: Publications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the in-house staff magazine of the Ordnance Survey from the last 12 months. [129247]

Angela E. Smith: Copies of the spring, summer and winter 2006 editions of Viewpoint, the Ordnance Survey in-house staff magazine have been placed in the Library.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1102W, on parliamentary questions, and further to the evidence given before the Communities and Local Government Committee (HC 106-ii) on 4 December 2006 at Q117, why the revised guidance issued to civil servants on answering parliamentary questions does not specify that questions relating to the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister should be answered in the same way as questions that specifically relate to the Department for Communities and Local Government. [129244]

Angela E. Smith: The revised guidance states that

"Each question should be considered on its merits and there is no prohibition on providing information relating to the former ODPM."

Thames Gateway

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many letters of objection she has received to the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge. [129460]

Meg Munn: Overall, the Department has received 4,808 written representations objecting to the scheme, broken down as follows:

2,949 representations, of which 2,836 were contained in petitions, before the opening of the public inquiry into the proposed bridge;

1,819 representations, of which 1,786 were individual letters prepared to a standard format, during the inquiry; and

40 representations following the close of the inquiry.

Valuation Office

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to the collection of local authority *(a)* planning or development control and *(b)* building control data by the Valuation Office Agency for (i) business rate valuations and (ii) council tax valuations have been (A) made, (B) commissioned and (C) undertaken since May 1997. [128543]

Mr. Woolas: There have been no changes since 1997 to the statutory requirement on local authorities to provide information to the Valuation Office Agency. However, the method of transfer of the information has improved because of increasingly better technology.

Community Development: Disadvantaged

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will take steps to introduce microfinance schemes for individuals to improve the economy in deprived areas. [124730]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have already taken steps to introduce microfinance schemes to encourage entrepreneurs in deprived areas.

The Phoenix Fund, launched in 1999, was a time limited, £40 million fund which pump-primed the establishment of 63 community development finance institutions that serve disadvantaged communities around the country. 4,545 loans with at total value of £34,475,308 were provided by the Phoenix Fund, which closed in 2006. Future funding of CDFIs rests with the RDAs who have received a further £11 million of post-Phoenix transition funding for the 2006 to 2008 period specifically for the community finance sector.

Further assistance with micro-loans is available through the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) which was announced by the Chancellor in his 2005 Budget. It aims to release the economic and productivity potential of the most deprived local areas across the UK through enterprise and investment—thereby boosting local incomes and employment opportunities, and building sustainable communities.

LEGI is a £300 million programme in the first instance, spread over three years. 15 local authorities have already benefited from the first round. A further 14 local authorities will benefit from the second round. Local authorities that have been successful in securing LEGI funding in rounds one and two may introduce microfinance schemes to encourage entrepreneurship.

Finally, small businesses in disadvantaged areas may seek funding from the Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG). This scheme provides loans from £5,000 upwards to small businesses with viable business plans that are unable to obtain a conventional loan because they do not have collateral or a proven track record. Current monthly usage is around 250 loans with a total value of around £20 million.

TREASURY

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2032W, on the Child Trust Fund, what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of parents of children whose Child Trust Fund voucher expired by 31 December 2006 who have not been written to. [128453]

Ed Balls: Following the answer given on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2032W, the vast majority of parents of children whose voucher expired by 31 December 2006 (including those whose vouchers expired in late December) have been written to with details of the revenue allocated account opened for them. HMRC continue to notify parents about the expiry of their Child Trust Fund vouchers.

There are a very small number of cases where we have not written to a parent following the expiry of a voucher, for example where we no longer have a current address.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 8 February, transferred to his Department from the Department for Transport, PO Ref: 7/14043/2007. [129378]

John Healey: I have done so.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1430W, on Departments: Manpower (1) which directors the personal assistants work for; and whether any Director has more than one personal assistant; [128896]

(2) which directors the two private secretaries work for; and what the pay band is of each private secretary. [128897]

Ed Balls: Each Director has a PA or share of a PA. The Director of Operations and the Director of Policy and Planning each has a Range E who provides them with support as part of their duties.

Gila Sacks

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1490W, on Gila Sacks, which policy area Gila Sacks covers. [128899]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1490W.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to issue a press notice on the appointment of each special adviser to his Department. [128804]

Ed Balls: A full list of special advisers across Government is provided each year by the Prime Minister in a written statement to the House.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what aspects of the Government's Policy Review findings he plans to take into account in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [128832]

Ed Balls: The Cabinet's Policy Review Working Groups as well as the series of specific policy reviews set out in chapter 6 of the 2006 pre-Budget report, will inform the Government's preparations for the 2007 comprehensive spending review, which will focus on equipping Britain to meet the challenges of the next decade. On completion of the 2007 CSR, the Government will publish a White Paper setting out their conclusions.

Reverse Charge Mechanism

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Paymaster General's written statement of 19 March 2007, whether any concessions were made by the UK Government in return for EU approval of the implementation of the Reverse Charge mechanism in the UK. [129774]

Ed Balls: After discussions with European partners and UK businesses, the Government decided that the derogation should run for two years rather than three, after which the UK can apply for it to be renewed, and that the scope of the reverse charge should be restricted to mobile phones and computer chips which are the goods most commonly used in MTIC fraud.

In addition the Government decided that a de minimis level of £5,000, rather than £1,000 as originally envisaged, is sufficiently low to deter fraud in these goods, while ensuring that those supplying very small quantities of these high value goods do not need to use non-standard VAT accounting rules. Some member states were also particularly concerned about the fraud moving to them, so we have agreed to enhanced co-operation measures.

These changes will not reduce the effectiveness of the measure.

Treasury Board

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the conclusions were of the Treasury Board on 25 January 2007 on his Department's performance in the last quarter. [128802]

Ed Balls: Detailed reporting on the Department's performance is available in the Departmental Report and Autumn Performance Report.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overseas Students

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many English for Speakers of Other Languages students are claiming tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [128810]

Ed Balls: This information is not available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any of the benchmarks set out in Afghanistan Compact have been revised; and if she will make a statement. [127166]

Margaret Beckett: The benchmarks set out in the Afghanistan Compact last until 2011. The Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), which comprises members of the government of Afghanistan and the international community, was mandated under the Compact to keep all the benchmarks under regular review. To date, some of the deadlines have been revised to take account of developments on the ground. The full details are available on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy's website at www.ands.gov.af under "JCMB".

British Council: Offices

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which British Council offices *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each of the last five years. [128812]

Mr. Hoon: In the last five years British Council country operations have opened in Afghanistan and Iraq (2004) and closed in Ecuador (2002), Bolivia (2003), Brunei (2005) and Peru (2006).

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British Council offices there were in *(a)* Europe, *(b)* the Middle East, *(c)* South and Central America, *(d)* Africa, *(e)* North America, *(f)* Asia and *(g)* Australasia in (i) 2000 and (ii) 2006. [128813]

Mr. Hoon: In 2000 the British Council had a presence in 110 countries. Although there have been changes in the network the British Council still operated in 110 countries worldwide in 2006.

British council country operations

	2000	2006
Europe	39	40
Middle East	7	8
South and Central America	12	10
Africa	20	20
North America	2	2
Asia	2	2
Australasia	28	28
Total	110	110

Iran: Political Prisoners

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the government of Iran on the recent imprisonment of women campaigners; and if she will make a statement. [127692]

Margaret Beckett: 33 women's rights activists were arrested on 4 March outside a court building in Tehran, a few days before International Women's Day. They were demonstrating in support of five other women who are on trial for organising a women's rights demonstration in June 2006.

The EU Presidency, with UK support, issued a statement on 9 March, which expressed strong concern at these arrests, which are in breach of Iran's commitments to international human rights treaties that ensure the right to freedom of assembly and expression, and respect for all human rights without discrimination. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also made a statement on 6 March. Earlier on 4 March, in a meeting with the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the EU Presidency had raised concerns about the trial of the women's rights activists and the harassment of women's rights activists who have been involved in a campaign to protest against Iran's discriminatory laws against women.

We believe that most of the arrested women have since been released, but we continue to have serious concerns about Iran's treatment of those who exercise their right to peacefully express their opinions.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effect of transfer of security responsibility to Iraqi forces on the security situation in *(a)* Muthanna and *(b)* Dhi Qar; and if she will make a statement. [127148]

Margaret Beckett: Both Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces have remained relatively stable following the transfer of security responsibility to the Iraqi authorities. Under the terms of the agreement reached between the Coalition and the Iraqi authorities for the transfer of provinces to Provincial Iraqi Control, the Iraqi authorities can request Coalition assistance if a security situation arises that they are unable to resolve themselves. To date, this has not proved necessary in either province.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria are required to be fulfilled in order to proceed with the transfer of *(a)* Maysan and *(b)* Basra provinces to full Iraqi control; and if she will make a statement. [127149]

Margaret Beckett: The decision on when to transfer responsibility for security in each of Iraq's 18 provinces, including Maysan and Basra, is taken jointly by the Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) and the government of Iraq on the basis of provincial security transition assessments, compiled by divisional commanders of MNF-I.

The criteria used in these assessments are: the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces; the threat level; the Iraqi governance capacity; and the capabilities of MNF-I to re-intervene at the request of the Iraqis.

One of the main objectives of our work with the Iraqi security forces and provincial councils in the south is to build their capacity and capabilities in order to create the conditions for the transfer of security responsibility. We hope that this will happen in Maysan in the next few months and in Basra in the second half of this year.

Malaysia: Military Decorations

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the conclusions were of the consideration in 2006 by the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals of the points made by those seeking to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal. [127034]

Margaret Beckett: On 31 January 2006 the Government announced that Her Majesty the Queen had graciously approved the recommendation by the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals that veterans and others eligible should exceptionally be allowed to accept the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM), offered by the King and Government of Malaysia, but that in accordance with normal policy and practice official permission to wear the medal should not be granted. Since then, a number of people have said they believe that this decision was wrong; and that those entitled to accept the medal should also be permitted formally to wear the PJM.

Given the strength of feeling of some individuals, the committee considered the matter again very carefully. After examination of the issues involved, the policies underpinning the operation of the UK honours system and particular application of these policies in the case of the PJM, it concluded that the original decision to allow exceptions to two of the major principles of the British Honours System—the double medalling rule and the five year rule—should be upheld. Entitled individuals will continue to be allowed to accept the PJM, but there is no official permission to wear it.

In re-affirming the decision of 31 January 2006, the committee was aware that it would disappoint those who wish to wear the PJM, but they hoped that all who

had been involved would understand that the decision reflected a major exception to the normal rules on acceptance of foreign medals. Exceptions to the rules are made only in exceptional circumstances, and in reaching its decision, the committee considered the importance of British involvement in the Malaysian campaign in the histories both of Malaysia and the UK in the years 1957-66, the generous gesture by the King and Government of Malaysia, as well the principles on which the British Honours System is based. Similar exceptions were made for medals from the Saudi and Kuwaiti Governments after the First Gulf War.

Pakistan: Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when the Pakistan-Afghanistan cross-border Jirga is expected to take place; what aims have been agreed for the Jirga; and if she will make a statement; [127164]

(2) whether the UK has a role in the planning and coordination of the agreed Pakistan-Afghanistan joint Jirgas to address issues pertaining to the border areas, as agreed in trilateral meetings between the presidents of the United States, Afghanistan and Pakistan in September 2006; and if she will make a statement. [127165]

Margaret Beckett: The governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan have not yet announced when the cross border Jirga will take place.

We support the joint Jirga proposal put forward by Presidents Karzai and Musharraf as a useful vehicle to bring peace and stability to the region, and are encouraging both governments to work together to prepare an agreed Jirga process and structure. We understand the Afghan Jirga Commission visited Islamabad on 10-13 March to hold formal talks with the Pakistan Jirga Commission.

Constructive dialogue between the governments, tribal elders and representatives of other interested groups on both sides of and across the border could play an important part in bringing peace and security to the border area, and help counter the shared terrorist/extremist threat.

The UK does not have a formal role, but we stand ready to consider requests for

assistance from the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Poland: Energy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with her Polish counterpart on a common EU energy policy. [128564]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Polish Foreign Minister regularly meet to discuss a wide range of European issues including the EU's energy policy. This was a major theme of the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 5-6 March and the European Council on 8-9 March, attended by both, where EU governments agreed an ambitious package of measures on climate change and energy security, including further steps towards establishing a coherent EU external energy policy.

Zimbabwe

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will seek to extend the travel ban on Robert Mugabe to members of his family. [129437]

Mr. McCartney: As well as Robert Mugabe and his wife, Grace, the EU travel ban list also includes his sister (Sabina) and nephew (Patrick Zhuwao). Both are included because of their positions in Government, respectively, a Politburo member and a Minister. Should other family members take up such positions or become identified with acts of violence and abuse, we will propose that they be immediately added to the EU travel ban list. In addition, we will seek to ensure that those identified as either directing others or participating themselves in torture and beatings will be added to the EU travel ban list.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 26 March 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Coastal Areas: Rights of Way

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's proposals for greater public access to the coast; and when he plans to undertake a public consultation on the issue. [128680]

Barry Gardiner: The Government received Natural England's report on 28 February in which they recommended that the Government should introduce new legislation to enable Natural England to align a "coastal access corridor" around the whole coast that people could enjoy with confidence and certainty. We are considering Natural England's advice and intend to issue a public consultation document in the spring.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK's budget for the Common Agricultural Policy was paid to farmers; and if he will make a statement. [129478]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* Total 'Farm-based scheme' expenditure, as reflected in the Rural Payment Agency's (RPA) 2005-06 Resource Account, amounted to £2,293,579,000. Total 'Trader-based' expenditure amounted to £313,664,000.

The percentage of farm-based expenditure is, therefore, 87.97 per cent.[1].

These figures are accruals-based and cover England only.

[1]Sourced from Notes 5,6 and 7 of RPA's 2005-06 Resource Account.

Docking of Working Dogs Tails (England) Regulations 2007

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the draft Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (England) Regulations 2007 were withdrawn. [129281]

Mr. Bradshaw: The draft Docking of Working Dogs' Tails (England) Regulations 2007 were not withdrawn.

The regulations were debated in Grand Committee of the House of Lords on 7 March (*Hansard* ref. GC13-GC20). An objection was raised on the regulations during the debate, which meant that the formal motion to consider the regulations was withdrawn. A new motion referring the regulations for debate on the Floor of the House was subsequently tabled. A debate on the Floor of the House has been arranged for Tuesday 27 March.

My noble Friend Lord Rooker and my officials have had constructive informal dialogue with peers since the debate on 7 March.

The regulations are expected to come into force on 6 April, at the same time as the main provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Energy Protection: Lighting

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely environmental benefits of banning the sale of energy inefficient, incandescent light bulbs. [127198]

Ian Pearson: Our current assessment is that, by removing incandescent light bulbs from the UK market and encouraging sales of the most efficient alternatives, we could avoid up to 1.2 million tonnes of carbon emissions per year by 2011.

We welcome the European Commission's intention to work introduce regulatory measures relating to domestic lighting by 2010, with a phase out over the following years, but, as recently announced by the Chancellor, we will take voluntary action in the UK in advance of this. To this end, we will work with retailers and manufacturers to phase out inefficient light bulbs in the UK between 2008 and 2011.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Potatoes

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies his Department has *(a)* carried out and *(b)* supported on the health impact on farm animals of feeding them the by-products of the starched-altered GM potato EHG92-527-1. [128151]

Ian Pearson: My Department has not commissioned or supported any studies on the health impacts on farm animals of feeding with by-products of GM potato EH92-527-1. An application for EU marketing consent to cover this proposed use has been made under the GM food and feed regulation 1829/2003. Within the UK this is the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding the Environment Agency provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since May 1997; and for what purpose funding was provided. [124213]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency is required to keep finance records only for six years.

The value of payments made by the Environment Agency (EA) to the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) or IPPR Trading Limited in each year since 2002 (excluding VAT) was as follows. For all items over £200, the Environment Agency has identified the purpose of the payment.

Year	*Purpose of payment*	*Amount (£)*
2002	n/a	200
2003	Report on sustainable development	5,000

Year	Purpose of payment	Amount (£)
2004	Sustainable development event	5,000
2005	Report on water efficiency	5,000
2005[1]	Environmental behaviour change debate	2,000
2006	Supporting low carbon economy debate	5,000
2006[1]	Environmental debate	2,500

[1] The EA holds events either jointly or on its own to debate environmental issues on the fringes of each of the three main party political conferences. These invoices reflect such events.

Seals: Shetland Islands

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for recent trends in the population of common seals in the Shetland Islands. [129279]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a devolved issue and is, therefore, a matter for the Scottish Executive.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Air Pollution

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the annual absolute carbon emissions of the parliamentary estate were in each of the last five years. [120553]

Nick Harvey: The annual absolute carbon emissions of the House of Commons estate in each of the last three years from gas and electricity are in the following table.

Absolute carbon emissions in tonnes

	Gas	Electricity	Total
2003-04	1,158.9	2,257.6	3,416.5
2004-05	1,078.8	2,270.3	3,349.0
2005-06	1,163.1	2,302.7	3,465.8

Gas consumption reduced in 2004-05 and then increased in 2005-06; due to fluctuations in heating energy consumption caused by variations in outside temperatures measured in degree days. The following table shows the degree days for the Thames Valley region which includes London. From these figures a higher emission would have been expected in 2005-06. That it was not so is due to the installation of more efficient Palace boilers in 2004.

Degree Days

	Number
2003-04	1,740
2004-05	1,703
2005-06	1,869

The steady increase in carbon emissions from electricity was due to an increase in electricity consumption in the Palace and 7 Millbank. This was due mainly to the installation and usage of more air conditioning units.

The figures have been calculated from gas and electricity invoices and not meter readings taken by estate staff, but estimated invoices were amended using actual meter readings where possible. Natural gas invoices list several multiplying factors used to calculate each month's consumption and the existing monitoring and targeting system used on the parliamentary estate, based on staff meter readings, is not as sophisticated and therefore not as accurate.

The figures for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 have not been calculated since the energy invoices for those two years are not readily available.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House authorities have made of the volume of *(a)* carbon dioxide, *(b)* methane, *(c)* perfluorocarbons, *(d)* nitrous oxide and *(e)* carbon equivalent released by the incineration of waste from the House of Commons estate when calculating the estate's carbon footprint. [120729]

Nick Harvey *[pursuant to the reply, 21 March 2007, Official Report, c. 907W]:* I regret that my previous answer was not published in full. The complete answer is set out as follows:

Only residual waste after recycling has taken place is sent for incineration with energy recovery. In 2006 residual waste collected from the parliamentary estate amounted to 1,299 tonnes. This material was combusted at an energy recovery facility regulated by the Environment Agency, generating 725,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. The recovered energy is classed as renewable energy by the UK Government, in line with directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market.

Recovering energy from waste is acknowledged in the Stern Review as an effective weapon in combating climate change, displacing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel power generation sources.

The carbon footprint associated with the combustion of this waste is made up of a number of components:

(1) Direct emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), expressed as carbon equivalents

(2) "Avoided" emissions of GHG (that is, emissions displaced from an equivalent amount of fossil fuel power generating capacity)

(3) GHG emissions (additional or saved) from waste transportation

(4) Net GHG emissions, taking account of direct, avoided and transport-related emissions.

Direct emissions of GHG

GHG emissions from waste combustion are calculated in two steps. First, an estimate is made of the percentage of fossil and non-fossil carbon in the waste. Second, the emissions from the combustion of the fossil carbon within the waste are calculated. Emissions of non-fossil carbon do not contribute to global warming and are therefore not taken into account.

Methane is not produced in combustion plants. The remaining greenhouse gases are released in trace quantities relative to emissions of carbon dioxide. Because their concentrations in the emission gases vary according to the composition of the waste, the total

GHG effect expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (Teq) is estimated using emission factors developed by Defra, based on measured emissions averaged across UK energy recovery facilities.

Direct GHG emissions following the combustion of residual waste from parliamentary estates amounts to 415 Teq, of which 295 Teq is carbon dioxide.

"Avoided" emissions of GHG

Combustion of parliamentary estates waste in an energy recovery facility also results in avoided carbon dioxide emissions. The electricity produced by the facility displaces electricity that would otherwise be provided by an electricity utility power plant. Because most utility power plants burn fossil fuels and thus emit carbon dioxide, the electricity produced by waste combustion reduces utility carbon dioxide emissions. These avoided GHG emissions must be subtracted from the GHG emissions associated with combustion of the waste.

The convention is to assume that the electricity displaced arises from so-called "marginal" power generators, which in the UK is assumed to be gas-fired power stations. As with direct GHG emissions, emission factors are used to estimate the tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents avoided when waste is combusted.

GHG emissions avoided following the combustion of residual waste from parliamentary estates amounts to 435 Teq, of which 405 Teq is carbon dioxide.

GHG emissions from waste transportation

A saving in GHG emissions is realized when residual waste from the parliamentary estates is combusted, since the energy recovery facility is just 12 miles from the House. Previously the waste was being transported to landfill further away from the estate.

The GHG emission factor developed by Defra for waste transportation varies between 0.37 and 0.49 kg carbon dioxide equivalents per tonne of waste transported, depending on distance travelled. For transportation of 1,299 tonnes of parliamentary estates waste, this amounts to a GHG emission of between 0.48-0.65 Teq. Since this is less than 1 per cent. of the emissions of direct or avoided emissions, the GHG saving in transporting the waste a shorter distance will be omitted when presenting net emissions.

Net GHG emissions

The carbon footprint associated with the combustion of waste from the parliamentary estates is obtained by subtracting avoided emissions from direct emissions.

This equates to a net GHG saving of 20 Teq. Therefore 20 Teq should be subtracted when determining the total carbon footprint of parliamentary estates.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Statements

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House if he will take steps to ensure that an electronic version of each written ministerial statement is provided to the Library on the day it is made. [129415]

Mr. Straw: Following a recommendation from the Librarian, Government Departments now supply the Library with an electronic version of each written ministerial statement on the day it is made. I understand the system is working well, but if the hon. Gentleman is aware of any failings in this respect he should please let the Librarian and me know.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what large scale reconstruction projects have been completed in Afghanistan since 2002. [127151]

Hilary Benn: This information is not available and to obtain it would incur a disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: AIDS

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will seek a reduction in the price of the essential medicines for AIDS treatment at the forthcoming G8 Development Ministers meeting; and if he will raise the issue of patent barriers at the meeting. [129633]

Mr. Thomas: We welcome the German G8 Presidency's continued focus on HIV/AIDS including universal access to prevention, treatment and care, and essential medicines for AIDS treatment for all that need it. Development Ministers will include reducing the price of first and second line anti-retrovirals, and intellectual property issues, in their discussions. They will also consider related factors, such as research and development funding and propose a UN stock-take to review countries' universal access plans. A rapid review would strengthen efforts to deliver universal access and help realise our commitment to ensuring that "costed, inclusive, sustainable, credible and evidence-based national HIV/AIDS plans are funded" as agreed at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS in June 2006.

We are working to encourage G8 partners to support and subscribe to mechanisms to help reduce medicine prices, for example as the UK and France have done by joining the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNITAID), the drug purchase facility. One of the first actions of UNITAID, which started work in September 2006, was to negotiate lower prices for paediatric HIV/AIDS treatment expected to benefit 100,000 children. Through its long-term and predictable funding, UNITAID has an explicit aim to help lower drug prices. We are also working closely with the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) initiative to make paediatric AIDS treatments more widely available.

Palestinians: EC Aid

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been paid to

HSBC to transfer social welfare payments to Palestinian *(a)* workers, *(b)* pensioners and *(c)* welfare recipients; and who has paid the costs of transferring these funds. [128993]

Hilary Benn: The total fees paid so far to HSBC are €2,931,028. Of this €158,823 was for payments to pensioners; €1,910,125 for payments to workers; and €862,080 for payments to social hardship cases. Costs have been paid by each donor contributing to the TIM, proportionate to their contribution. So far the TIM has disbursed a total of €181 million in direct assistance and to support basic services for the Palestinian people.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many European Commission staff are involved in administering the Temporary International Mechanism. [128998]

Hilary Benn: There are six European Commission staff working in the Temporary International Mechanism Management Unit in Jerusalem.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment the European Commission has undertaken of the operation of the Temporary International Mechanism; how Palestinians were included in this process; and what the conclusions were. [129097]

Hilary Benn: The European Commission and the World Bank have begun work on a review of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM). This will assess the impact of each of the TIM's three windows as well as its overall impact. Consultation with Palestinians and the international community is expected to take place from April 2007.

So far the TIM has provided €181 million in direct support to the Palestinian people, including financial assistance benefiting an estimated 900,000 people and supplies to keep basic services going, including over 4.6 million litres of fuel for power supplies in Gaza. Increased EU and other donor funding is assessed as the main reason that the decline in the Palestinian economy over the last year has been much less than feared. The TIM has made an important contribution in this regard.

United Nations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the annual recurrent costs of maintaining a high level of preparedness among UN agencies. [128997]

Mr. Thomas: United Nations' agencies ensure, with support from DFID and others, that they are prepared to lead the humanitarian response to natural disasters and longer term crises caused by conflict. DFID provides institutional and operational funding (which can often include preparedness activities) to UN humanitarian agencies, including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN Children's Fund, the World Health Organisation, the World Food Programme and the UN High Commission for Refugees. The UN agencies do not have an agreed definition of preparedness and do not budget for this on a consistent basis. It is not therefore possible to estimate the annual recurrent costs of maintaining a high level of preparedness for UN agencies.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his foreign counterparts on whaling in the last 12 months. [128647]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State has had no discussions on whaling with his foreign counterparts. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are the Government lead on national and international issues related to whaling.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [129608]

Hilary Benn: I am extremely concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. About 1 million Zimbabweans are reliant on international food aid as the next harvest approaches. There has been confirmation of almost total crop failure in the southern part of the country. Many Zimbabweans face difficulty buying food because of the terrible economic situation resulting from the appalling policies of their Government. AIDS is also contributing to high mortality rates resulting in over 1.3 million orphans; approximately one in four children.

DFID has spent £33 million in the last financial year to tackle food insecurity and HIV/AIDS. All of our funding in Zimbabwe goes through UN agencies and NGOs. DFID has provided £3 million to support World Food Programmes. We have also provided £30 million for a three year programme to help over a million vulnerable people in rural and urban areas through NGO initiatives. DFID is also providing £5 million to the International Organisation for Migration to help internally displaced people.

SCOTLAND

Advocate-General for Scotland

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost was of travel by train by staff in the Office of the Advocate-General in each year since 1997. [128147]

David Cairns: The Office of the Advocate-General for Scotland was established on 20 May 1999. The Scotland Office provides corporate services, such as paying invoices and travel claims, to the Office of the Advocate-General. Separate figures are, however, not available for 1999-2000 and 2000-01; thereafter, the figures for the Office of the Advocate-General are:

	£
2001-02	16,097.50
2002-03	21,277.30

	£
2003-04	15,614.55
2004-05	16,944.13
2005-06	21,445.60

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff were employed to work in the Office of the Advocate-General in each year since 1997. [128148]

David Cairns: The Office of the Advocate-General for Scotland was established on 20 May 1999. Staffing figures are published in the Office's Departmental and Annual Reports, copies of which are lodged in the House Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his estimate is of the expenditure by the Advocate-General's Office on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [128149]

David Cairns: The Office of the Advocate-General for Scotland was established on 20 May 1999. The Scotland Office provides corporate services, such as the payment of invoices, to the Office of the Advocate-General. Separate figures for newspapers and magazines for each Office are not recorded; and the cost of periodicals is subsumed within the overall library costs, such as the purchase of books. Expenditure by both Offices on newspapers and magazines was:

	£
1999-2000	9,096
2000-01	13,639
2001-02	12,968
2002-03	12,990
2003-04	12,556
2004-05	11,546
2005-06	9,318

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Equal Opportunities

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its sponsored public bodies has produced on making the award of public contracts conditional on the bidding private sector firms meeting equality or diversity criteria or targets. [128669]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department its agencies and sponsored public bodies (The Health and Safety Executive and The Rent Service) will continue to take account of the guidance issued by the Office for Government Commerce (OGC) in relation to awarding of public contracts. OGC has published the guidance note Social Issues in Purchasing which outlines the scope to take account of social considerations such as equality and diversity issues in the procurement process in line with the European procurement rules and the Government's procurement policy based on value for money.

DWP procurement guidance states that potential suppliers should be precluded from bidding for contracts if they are in breach of UK law, this includes equality legislation and unique legislation on disability issues for example sheltered workshops. Contracts require suppliers to meet statutory legal requirements including those in respect of equality and diversity issues and our contracts require suppliers not to discriminate in employment practice.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128250]

Mrs. McGuire: The DWP and its agencies use four postal companies to handle mail.

Royal Mail collect, sort and deliver mail from majority of DWP sites including the collection of first class mail from a DWP supplier who produces mail on behalf of the Department.

UK Mail handle approximately 80 million items of DWP second class mail collected from two regional distribution centres and passed into the Royal Mail delivery office network for final mile delivery under down stream access.

Spring is responsible for the collection, sort and onward dispatch for final delivery of departmental international mail.

TNT is responsible for the courier service for the Department's internal mail. This also includes the distribution of internal mail and stationery from our print suppliers.

Homelessness: Training

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was allocated to training for homeless people in London from resources received from the European Social Fund in each quarter of 2007; and if he will make a statement. [127924]

Mr. Plaskitt: The European Social Fund (ESF) supports employment and training activities. It is increasingly being focused on improving the employment prospects and skills of people who are at a disadvantage in the labour market. However, the England ESF programme and the London regional ESF plan do not break down ESF funds into financial allocations for specific groups such as homeless people. The target for ESF spending in London in 2007 is £77,450,422.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which local authorities he has consulted on his plans to change the housing benefit subsidy for homeless households in temporary accommodation; [126485]

(2) if he will publish the responses to his consultation on his plans to change the housing benefit subsidy for homeless households in temporary accommodation; [126486]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of his consultation paper on his plans to change the housing benefit subsidy for homeless households in temporary accommodation. [126487]

Mr. Plaskitt: Consultation on any aspect of housing benefit (HB) is not undertaken with individual local authorities but via their representative associations—the Local Government Association, the Association of London Councils, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Welsh Local Government Association.

The large increase in HB expenditure in temporary accommodation was first discussed at a meeting with the Local Authority Associations in August 2006 and there were further discussions with representatives of the associations in November and December 2006 and January 2007.

Three DWP discussion papers were issued and both verbal and written responses were received from the representative associations. Copies of the discussion papers have been placed in the Library and will be published on the DWP website. Subject to third party approval, which we are in the process of obtaining, copies of responses will also be placed in the House of Commons Library and on the DWP website as soon as possible.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of non-housing revenue account expenditure on homeless households in temporary accommodation in each year since 2002-03. [126488]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables.

Non-housing revenue account expenditure on homeless households in temporary accommodation (nominal terms)

				£ million
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Estimated GB temporary housing expenditure	307	374	501	599
Subsidised	244	308	456	551
Unsubsidised	62	66	45	48

Non-housing revenue account expenditure on homeless households in temporary accommodation (real terms 2006-07 prices)

				£ million
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Estimated GB temporary Housing expenditure	339	402	524	615
Subsidised	271	331	477	566
Unsubsidised	69	71	47	49

Notes:
1. Expenditure data is taken from local authorities' subsidy returns.
2. All figures are final audited data with the exception of 2005-06 which is provisional (pre-audited) data.
3. GDP deflator is the latest available as at 5 pm on 12 March 2007, last updated 21 December 2006, and is taken from www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/gdp_deflators/data_gdp_fig_cfm
4. Due to historical differences in the treatment of Scottish rent rebate expenditure, it is not possible from local authority subsidy returns to identify all expenditure on temporary accommodation in Scotland. These figures may therefore slightly understate temporary accommodation expenditure. From an assessment of the England and Wales data, we estimate that this understatement would be of the order of £1-2 million.

Income Support

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children lived in households in receipt of income support in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [129600]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Numbers of children living in households in receipt of income support (IS) in Great Britain; as at April each year

	Number of dependent children in IS households	*Percentage of dependent children*
2004	1,978,630	17.6
2005	1,865,720	16.7
2006	1,828,275	16.4

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded the nearest five.
2. Figures exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
3. Figures are for children dependent on a parent/guardian claiming income support.
4. Due to the introduction of child tax credits in April 2003, information on child dependents held on the benefit computer system is not reliable; therefore children data have been merged onto income support claims from child benefit records with permission of HMRC.

Source:
DWP and HMRC data

IT Projects

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many information technology projects within the responsibility of his Department, its agencies and their predecessors have been cancelled since 1997; what the total cost was of each project at cancellation; and if he will make a statement. [105474]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was created in June 2001.

The Department undertakes a large number of projects which deliver business change and policy initiatives. IT changes are an enabling component of many projects. The number of projects in train at any one time will vary and the duration of the project lifecycle is often more than one calendar year. The following table includes only those projects that have been formally closed where the IT element is such that non-delivery of the IT would significantly damage the project's ability to deliver its intended results and the investment in the project has exceeded £1 million.

Project name	*Investment expenditure (£ million)*
Document Management (closed 2006-07)	1.4
Retirement Planner (closed 2004-05)	11.2
E-enabled Retirement Pension (closed 2006-07)	1.8
Benefits Processing Replacement Programme (BPRP) (closed 2006-07)	[1]135
Customer Accounting and Payment Strategy (closed 1999-2000)	127
Debt Accounting and Management System (closed 1999-2000)	13

[1] Including future commitments

A significant amount of the investment in BPRP is of future value to the Department. We estimate that at least half of the sum invested (around £73 million) is of future value to the Department. Similarly the benefits realised by the Debt Accounting and Management System project exceeded the costs incurred of £13 million and thus no actual loss occurred.

The costs of the Customer Accounting and Payment System are the estimated costs for that project at the time of closure.

Means-Tested Benefits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of each means-tested benefit administered by his Department in each year since 1990-91. [121840]

Mr. Pickles: The available information is in the following tables.

Income support (IS) and minimum income guarantee (MIG) recipients in Great Britain each year, 1990 to 2006

	AIMS	*MIG*	*Non-MIG*	*IS for the unemployed*
May 1990	4,180,000	1,675,000	1,442,000	1,063,000
May 1991	4,487,000	1,575,000	1,577,000	1,335,000
May 1992	5,088,000	1,643,000	1,783,000	1,662,000
May 1993	5,643,000	1,736,000	1,987,000	1,920,000
August 1994	5,702,000	1,785,000	2,109,000	1,887,000
August 1995	3,931,000	1,737,000	2,193,000	1,681,000
August 1996	4,007,000	1,727,000	2,278,000	1,502,000
August 1997	3,991,000	1,687,000	2,305,000	n/a
August 1998	3,863,000	1,624,000	2,239,000	n/a
August 1999	3,849,000	1,598,000	2,251,000	n/a
August 2000	3,892,000	1,637,000	2,254,000	n/a
August 2001	3,998,000	1,724,000	2,275,000	n/a
August 2002	3,998,000	1,740,000	2,259,000	n/a
August 2003	4,041,000	1,800,000	2,241,000	n/a
August 2004	2,202,000	11,000	2,191,000	n/a
August 2005	2,148,000	10,000	2,138,000	n/a
August 2006	2,138,000	10,000	2,129,000	n/a

Pension credit recipients in Great Britain as at August each year, 2004 to 2006

	Number
August 2004	2,593,000
August 2005	2,697,000
August 2006	2,728,000

Income-based jobseeker's allowance recipients in Great Britain as at August each year, 1997 to 2006

	Number
1997	1,182,000
1998	1,031,000
1999	928,000
2000	800,000
2001	695,000
2002	664,000
2003	635,000
2004	588,000
2005	634,000
2006	708,000

n/a = Not applicable

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
2. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003 however some residual cases remain on the income support statistics.
3. income support for the unemployed was replaced by income-based jobseeker's allowance in October 1996.
4. IS figures for August 1994 to August 1998 and all JSA (IB) figures have been derived by applying 5per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
5. Some income-based JSA claimants may also be entitled to benefit via the contributory route.

Source:

DWP 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. samples and IS ASE 5 per cent. data

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions his Department

checked the immigration status of applicants for national insurance numbers in each year since 1997; and how many applications were refused as a result. [116599]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

Prior to July 2006, individuals entering the UK from abroad who required a National Insurance number (NINO) had to attend Jobcentre Plus for an evidence of identity interview. The interviewing process was primarily designed to guard against identity fraud. If Jobcentre Plus became aware of immigration or right to work irregularities it advised the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate of this so that appropriate action could be taken.

From July 2006 a "right to work" pre-condition for all employment-related NINO applications was introduced. This prevents anyone who does not have the right to work from being allocated a NINO for employment purposes. From July 2006 to 30 November 2006 a total of 1,529 NINO applications were refused on the basis of not satisfying the right to work test.

New Deal

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost to his Department of each new deal programme has been in each year since 2001. [105299]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

New deal costs since 2001

£ million

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
New deal for young people	308	314	264	254	198
New deal 25 plus	213	238	189	179	125
New deal 50 plus	87	87	41	3	1
New deal for lone parents	46	62	20	24	26
New deal for disabled people	10	31	28	65	68
New deal for partners	8	6	0	1	1
Admin	n/a	n/a	121	113	121

Notes:
1. Figures include all new deal costs including administrative expenditure up to 2002-03. Information on administrative expenditure by individual new deal is not available for 2003-04 and later years.
2. Spend data also includes allowances paid to participants apart from the 50 plus element of the working tax credit which is the responsibility of HMRC. As this is not included, new deal 50 plus costs reduce after 2002-03.
3. Spend on new deal for partners in 2003-04 was less than £0.5 million and is thus not recorded as figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.
4. Start dates for each programme are: new deal for young people: January 1998; new deal 25 plus: July 1998; new deal for lone parents: October 1998; new deal 50 plus: April 2000; new deal for disabled people: July 2001; new deal for partners: April 1999.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Financial Control Division

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost per job placement of *(a)* the New Deal for Young People and *(b)* New Deal 25 plus. [111233]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We estimate that the average cost of helping someone into work through new deal for young people is £2,789 and through new deal 25 plus is £3,471. This data is for the period ending March 2006 and excludes administration costs.

Pensioners: Tees Valley

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners live in *(a)* Hartlepool borough council and *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region areas; how many are in receipt of council tax benefit; and what percentage this represents of the total number of pensioners living in each area. [129789]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Council tax benefit recipients by age and local authority, August 2006

Local authority	Council tax benefit recipients aged 60 and over[1]	Population aged 60 and over	Percentage of population aged 60 and over in receipt of council tax benefit
Darlington	5,090	22,200	23.0
Hartlepool	6,590	19,200	33.3
Middlesbrough	7,880	27,000	29.2
Redcar and Cleveland	8,270	32,800	25.2
Stockton on Tees	8,910	37,100	24.0

[1] Council tax benefit figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Council tax benefit caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages to one decimal place.
3. Population figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
4. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
5. "Aged 60 and over" is defined as benefit units where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 and over. Therefore figures will contain some claimants aged under60 where there is a partner aged over 60 years.

Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system. Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2006; and mid-2005 ONS population estimates

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on paying *(a)* social security benefits and *(b)* job seeker's allowance to people who live with a partner who works more than 24 hours per week; and if he will make a statement. [129601]

Mr. Plaskitt: Income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance are non-contributory benefits. The full basis for entitlement is set out in regulations. The principal rule in relation to remunerative work is that, where the claimant works 16 hours or more a week or the claimant's partner works 24 hours or more

week the claimant does not satisfy the conditions of entitlement. For those cases where the couple is obliged to make a joint claim for JSA, the 16-hour rule applies to both partners because both are claimants.

In cases other than joint claim JSA cases, where the claimant's partner is working between 16 and 24 hours a week, it may be possible for the couple to claim both working tax credit and either income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance. In such cases, there is an automatic entitlement to maximum working tax credit, but the claimant's entitlement to income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance will be reduced pound for pound by the working tax credit that is paid.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on paying *(a)* social security benefits and *(b)* job seeker's allowance to people who live with a parent who works more than 24 hours per week; and if he will make a statement. [129602]

Mr. Plaskitt: Both Income Support and income-based jobseeker's allowance are available to those who satisfy the qualifying criteria. The fact that a non-dependent young person may choose to continue to live in their parents' household does not in any way affect their entitlement to these benefits.

TRANSPORT

Departments: Ministers

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Ministers in his Department have had meetings with former Ministers of the Department in the last three months. [129826]

Gillian Merron: Department for Transport Ministers meet with ministerial colleagues and former ministerial colleagues in the course of performing their ministerial duties.

Departments: Official Engagements

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who has had access to the diaries of his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last three months. [129827]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport employs some 19,000 officials. Identification of who would have access to each official's diary could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Access to ministerial diaries is limited to those who support the Minister in their ministerial duties.

Departments: Security

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 18W, if he will break down by commercial and industrial sector the 4711 passes issued to contractors and consultants by his Department. [129078]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 22 March 2007]*: The Department's access control systems used to calculate the number of passes previously advised in the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 18W, do not contain any further information to provide a meaningful breakdown of those passes issued to commercial and industrial sectors.

Exhaust Emissions: Pollution Control

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the progress of motor manufacturers towards meeting the targets for new car emission levels set out in the 1998 agreement between the European Automobile Manufacturers Association and the European Commission. [129740]

Dr. Ladyman: For 2004 (the last year for which EU figures are available), the average new car efficiency for the EU was 163g/km (grams carbon dioxide emitted for every kilometre travelled). The agreement between the European Commission and the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) was for ACEA members to meet an efficiency target of 140g/km by 2008.

While the 2004 figure shows a 12 per cent. gain in efficiency since 1995 (the first year of the EU-manufacturer emissions agreements), it is also clear that the 2008 target is unlikely to be met. Because of this, the Commission recently announced its intention to legislate on emissions: by mid-2008, it will propose legislation requiring manufacturers to reach an emissions level of 130g/km by 2012 (with other measures taking the overall target to the equivalent of 120g/km). While details around the target level are still being considered, we welcome in principle the Commission's intention to bring forward mandatory proposals.

Galileo Satellite Navigation System

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate is of the date when the Galileo satellite navigation system will be fully functional. [129919]

Dr. Ladyman: The latest information provided by the European Commission gives 2012 as the date for full operational capability to be achieved. This is subject to the successful conclusion of negotiations with the consortium bidding for the public private partnership (PPP) contract.

Heathrow Airport: Air Traffic

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of flights were delayed from landing by having to circle or stack at Heathrow airport in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the last three years; if he will determine what effect this has on (i) fuel consumption and (ii) pollution; what action is being taken to reduce these delays; and if he will make a statement. [129611]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

HGV Drivers

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers his Department has to ensure that foreign drivers unable to obtain HGV licences in the UK for medical reasons do not drive in the UK. [129861]

Dr. Ladyman: Driving unlicensed is an offence under the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 and the penalty reflects the seriousness of that offence. On conviction the driver is liable to disqualification from driving all vehicles. The police will continue to enforce the law.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons estimates of the number of foreign registered vehicles on UK roads are not available, as referred to in the answer of 9 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 28W, on vehicle registration. [129293]

Dr. Ladyman: Estimates of the number of foreign registered vehicles on UK roads are not available because comprehensive data of this nature are not collected.

However, an estimate of the number of foreign registered heavy goods vehicles entering GB is available from an ad-hoc survey undertaken in 2003. The report entitled "Foreign Vehicle activity in GB in 2003" was placed in the House of Commons Library and is also available online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/freight/foreignvehicle/coll_surveyofforeignvehicleactiv/surveyofforeignvehicleactivi5130.

Rapid Transit Systems

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many light rail projects his Department has considered since 1997. [129984]

Mr. Tom Harris: 18 schemes have been considered since 1997, some of which were considered more than once in different forms.

Road Charging

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1456W, on tolls, whether the *(a)* London congestion charge and *(b)* Durham congestion charge are compliant with the requirements of EU Directive 2004/52/EC. [129865]

Dr. Ladyman: Article 1(2) of the EU Directive 2004/52, states that the directive does not apply to road toll systems:

for which no electronic means of toll collection exists,

which do not need the installation of on-board equipment,

which are small, strictly local road toll systems for which the costs of compliance with the requirements of this directive would be disproportionate to the benefits.

Both the London congestion charge and Durham congestion charge are therefore exempt from the EU Directive 2004/52 as they do not require vehicles to install on-board equipment and do not use electronic means to collect the charge.

Road Traffic

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of the *(a)* motorway and *(b)* strategic trunk network have been widened to ease traffic bottlenecks since 1997. [125987]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table lists the schemes within the strategic roads programme which have been widened in order to ease traffic congestion since 1997.

	Length of scheme (Miles)
Motorway schemes	
A1 (M) Wetherby-Walshford	3.11
M5 Junctions 17-18a Northbound Climbing Lane (Hallen Hill)	1.30
M25J12-15 Widening	7.08
A1(M) Ferrybridge-Hook Moor	10.56
M60 J5-8 Widening	4.60
M5 Junctions 19-20 Southbound Climbing Lane (Naish Hill)	2.11
M5 Junctions 19-20 Northbound Climbing Lane (Tickenham Hill)	2.05
Total	30.82
Trunk road schemes	
A1 1 Roudham Heath-Attleborough Improvement	6.21
A1 Willowburn-Denwick Improvement	2.49
A46 Newark-Lincoln Improvement	4.97
A1033 Hedon Road Improvement	4.16
A120 Stansted-Braintree Improvement	14.29
A2 Bean-Cobham Phase 1 Bean-Tollgate	2.55
A249 Iwade-Queenborough Improvement (DBFO)	3.1.1
A11 Attleborough Bypass	3.23
Total	41.01
Total motorways and trunk roads	71.83

Tolls: Greater Manchester

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has selected Manchester as a location for a road user pricing pilot. [129094]

Dr. Ladyman: No decisions have been taken on areas to take forward local road pricing.

Greater Manchester is one of 10 areas to be awarded pump-priming funding to support the development of Transport Innovation Fund packages that address local congestion problems by combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport.

It is for the local authority to decide whether to propose such a scheme.

Transport

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the timetable for the draft Transport Bill. [129095]

Dr. Ladyman: The draft Road Transport Bill is due to be published later in the spring.

Vehicle Emissions

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects to approve technology and testing standards for equipment that could be fitted to vehicles to abate emissions of nitrogen oxide in relation to the enforcement to Euro IV standards. [129855]

Dr. Ladyman: Euro IV standards are mandatory for all new cars, vans, lorries and buses registered in the United Kingdom, and indeed Europe. Test procedures are therefore already in place for type approval to these standards.

Diesel lorries and buses meeting earlier Euro standards are eligible for reduced road tax if they have been retrofitted to reduce their particulate emissions (but not NO_x emissions) to Euro IV levels. Such retrofit emissions control devices are approved through the Reduced Pollution Certificate scheme.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has recently announced that the Reduced Pollution Certificate scheme will be extended to offer reduced road tax to lorries and buses meeting the Euro V standards ahead of the date that this becomes mandatory (1 October 2009). Euro V differs from Euro IV solely in terms of the limits on oxides of nitrogen emissions. The exact details of the requirements for issuing Reduced Pollution Certificates to Euro V compliant vehicles, including any test procedures required, have not yet been decided.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which postal companies handle mail dispatched by her Department and its agencies. [128246]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport uses the following postal companies: Royal Mail, IDS (Interdepartmental Dispatch Service), Parcelforce and City Sprint. Our executive agency, the Royal Parks, uses the following postal companies: Royal Mail and City Sprint.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department spent on newsprint recruitment advertising in each of the last five years; and which newspapers it used for such purposes over that period. [129090]

Mr. Lammy: The cost of newsprint advertising cannot be easily separated from other recruitment expenditure without disproportionate cost.

Senior posts are typically advertised in *The Times* or *The Guardian*, and, if appropriate, the specialist press. More junior positions are advertised in the London press.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many vacancies there are within her Department. [129091]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has 12 vacancies currently.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department has spent on recruitment in the last five years, broken down by *(a)* costs incurred directly by her Department, *(b)* costs incurred through the employment of recruitment agencies and agents and *(c)* other costs. [129092]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has paid the following amounts on the recruitment of permanent staff in the last five years:

	£
2001-02	27,079
2002-03	115,369
2003-04	70,786
2004-05	34,931
2005-06	130,980

A breakdown of these amounts as requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Gaming Clubs

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* the Chairman and *(b)* other members of the Casino Advisory Panel read the Joint Committee's Report on the Gambling Bill during their deliberations on the award of casino licences. [127179]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The Chairman and members of the Casino Advisory Panel read the report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Gambling Bill: Draft Gambling Bill Session 2003-2004 Volumes I to III and Joint Committee on the Draft Gambling Bill: Draft Gambling Bill (Regional Casinos) Volumes I and II and used this information to inform their conclusions.

Gaming Clubs: Licensing

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regional casinos must be licensed in the pilot scheme in order to comply with the EU legislation relating to freedom of enterprise. [129037]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are satisfied that the Gambling Act 2005 complies with EU law. The Act provides for three new categories of casinos: one regional casino, eight large and eight small casinos.

National Lottery: Grants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of funding provided by each lottery distributor went to voluntary and community sector organisations in each of the last five years. [129155]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* This information is not available in detail for all lottery distributors. However, the information that we do have suggests that distributors channel a significant amount of their funding through the voluntary and community sector (VCS).

For example the Heritage Lottery Fund estimates that in 2005-06, 55 per cent. of its lottery awards were made to the third sector. Its estimates for the previous four years are 39 per cent. in 2004-05, 51 per cent. in 2003-04, 45 per cent. in 2002-03 and 50 per cent. in 2001-02.

The Arts Council England estimates that in 2005-06, it awarded approximately 60 per cent. of its budget to the VCS.

Sport England estimates that around 30 per cent. of its funding has gone to the VCS over the lifetime of the lottery.

Since 2004-05, the total annual Community Fund budget and approximately 40 per cent. of the New Opportunities Fund budget has been allocated to the voluntary and community sector. From 2006-07, the Big Lottery Fund made a new undertaking to allocate 60-70 per cent. of its total budget to the voluntary and community sector and will be reporting on its performance against this target in its annual report.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* roles and *(b)* pay grades are of (i) Board and (ii) Committee members of the Olympic Delivery Authority. [129246]

Mr. Caborn: The roles of the Board members and Committee members of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) are detailed in the Management Statement and the Standing Orders and Terms of Reference for each established Committee (Audit, Communications, Finance, Planning, Remuneration and Risk). These can be found on the ODA's website at www.london2012.com. Remuneration for the chairman's post is set at £300,000 per annum pro rata and requires a two to three day per week time commitment. Other Board members and Committee members are remunerated at the rate of £500 per day for each whole day or half day that they spend on ODA business.

Olympic Games

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will estimate the likely effect on lottery resources available to voluntary and community bodies of national lottery funding for the 2012 Olympic Games. [125649]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the Big Lottery Fund have agreed that the fund's resources for the voluntary and community sector will be protected. They will continue to receive £2 billion, as they expect, from the Big Lottery Fund between now and 2012.

The voluntary and community sector also receives lottery funding from distributors for the other good causes, the arts, heritage and sport. At this stage it is not possible to estimate the effect on this funding of the recently revised Olympic budget. No decisions have been taken by Arts Council England or the Heritage Lottery Fund about possible adaptations to their lottery programmes. They intend to honour all existing commitments and they remain committed to supporting the voluntary and community sectors in their fields. Furthermore, a significant proportion of Sport England's investment is directed to the voluntary and community sector and I expect this to continue also. My Department will also be working closely with all distributors to ensure they are able to fully benefit from the many opportunities London 2012 will afford.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will break down by area of planned expenditure the £390 million allocated for sport in the public sector funding package for the 2012 Olympics. [129382]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The £388 million in the public sector funding package allocated for investment in non Olympic Delivery Authority provision comprises: £290 million from the Sports Lottery for investment in elite and community sport; a £66 million contribution to the Paralympics costs; and £32 million for other non Olympic Delivery Authority costs.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has benchmarked the expenditure on administrative costs accrued by the Olympic Delivery Authority in relation to the construction of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games against the administrative budgets for previous Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [128412]

Tessa Jowell: Administration costs are specific to the particular state of the labour market in each country. We have not therefore benchmarked the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA's) administration costs against those for previous Olympic Games. We will however, continue to press down on those costs to ensure that they are contained within the budget agreed.

The total cost of the ODA's programme delivery budget represents around 10 per cent. Of the total costs of the ODA programme, which is consistent with industry norms for a project of this scale, complexity and concentration.

Sports: Finance

Chris Bunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the

Government and *(b)* the Big Lottery Fund spent on elite sport, including facilities and major events, in each of the last five years; and how much is planned to be spent in each of the next five years. [129088]

Mr. Caborn: UK Sport is the Government's lead agency for elite sport in the UK and a lottery distributor. The table provides details of the level of Government and national lottery funding to UK Sport over the last five years.

£

	Exchequer funding	*Lottery funding*	*Total*
2002-03	5,100,000	22,100,000	27,200,000
2003-04	11,500,000	17,700,000	29,200,000
2004-05	16,400,000	14,300,000	30,700,000
2005-06	16,300,000	15,700,000	32,000,000
2006-07	35,400,000	40,500,000	75,900,000

Over the next five years UK Sport plans to invest approximately £508.6 million of Exchequer and lottery money in elite sport.

Sport England provides some funding for English non-Olympic sports at elite level and, prior to April 2006, also provided elite funding to English Olympic sports. This funding was wholly from the lottery and was made via Sport England's world class programmes. This ran between1997 and 2005 and a total of £236,679,512 was provided over this period.

Since 1 April 2005, Sport England's investment in national governing bodies (NGBs) has been made via whole sport or one stop plans. Between 2005 and 2009 Sport England estimates that £59 million will be distributed to support elite sport

On 9 March Sport England launched its proposals for NGB investment between 2009 and 2013. This will determine future funding for non-Olympic elite sports.

The plan is to have funding agreements in place by March 2008.

Figures from Sport England show that the following capital amounts have been spent to build or refurbish elite sports facilities (defined for this purpose as the English institutes of sport and the national sports centres) over the period 02-03 to 06-07:

£

	Exchequer funding	*Lottery funding*	*Total*
2002-03	0	24,792,379	24,792,379
2003-04	100,000	3,525,565	3,625,565
2004-05	391,000	49,833,172	50,224,172
2005-06	1,117,000	0	1,117,000
2006-07	624,000	0	624,000

In addition, DCMS, Sport England and the London Development Agency have contributed £161 million (£120 million Lottery and £41 million Exchequer) towards the cost of the Wembley Stadium project which opened its doors for the first time on 17 March 2007; and Sport England and DCMS have contributed £11 million towards the cost of the Lee Valley athletics centre (£7 million lottery and £4 million Exchequer) which opened formally in January 2007.

Sport England anticipates spending an additional £3 million in the period up to 2007-08 on the national sports centres.

Funding on elite sports facilities beyond 2007-08 will be subject to the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review.

UK Sport distributes lottery funding each year, through the world class events programme, to support NGBs' bidding and staging costs for major sporting events. Between 2002 and 2006 UK Sport invested £1.6 million a year in this programme. From 2007 it will be investing £3.3 million a year.

The big lottery fund money has not allocated any funding to support elite sport.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Casinos

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on casino development in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [129516]

Mr. Hain: None. The legislation governing gambling in Northern Ireland, the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, does not permit facilities for high stakes gaming such as are provided by commercial gaming clubs (casinos) in Great Britain. A casino cannot, therefore, operate lawfully in Northern Ireland. There are no plans at present to change the law to allow casinos to operate in Northern Ireland.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128066]

Mr. Hanson: Information on advertising campaign expenditure is not held centrally in the format requested. However the following tables show the information currently held on departmental advertising expenditure. This information is available for the past two financial years but is not broken down by campaign. A breakdown in relation to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print media and *(d)* other is supplied in the following tables. Category *(d)* includes other forms of advertising, for example outdoor advertising, cinema and online. The new Advertising Shared Service Centre, which becomes operational on 1 April, is currently developing a management information system to collate information on campaign and classified expenditure.

2005-06

	Television	Radio	Print	Other	£ Total
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	—	—	—	—	—
Agriculture and Rural Development	—	3,540	93,589	500	96,629
Culture, Arts and Leisure	—	—	4,422	—	4,422
Education	—	—	—	—	—
Employment and Learning	220,505	60,565	51,523	200,586	533,179
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	—	—	26,747	40	26,787
Environment	1,507,242	80,488	78,070	178,989	1,844,789
Finance and Personnel	—	—	—	234,797	234,797
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	157,521	73,430	21,624	39,862	292,437
Regional Development	—	—	—	—	—
Social Development	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Ireland Office	146,529	76,325	73,491	53,311	349,656

2004-05

	Television	Radio	Print	Other	£ Total
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	157,900	40,421	305	43,114	241,740
Agriculture and Rural Development	—	—	141,317	36,600	177,917
Culture, Arts and Leisure	—	—	—	—	—
Education	11,660	4,548	—	—	16,208
Employment and Learning	230,848	69,997	81,844	205,062	587,751
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	—	36,000	—	11,394	47,394
Environment	1,433,926	79,556	58,815	67,303	1,639,600
Finance and Personnel	—	—	60,999	100,348	161,347
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	62,400	39,399	80,601	121,201	303,601
Regional Development	—	—	—	—	—
Social Development	—	—	2,919	—	2,919
Northern Ireland Office	46,849.00	30,380.00	156,052.05	34,443.00	267,724.05

Elderly People

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people aged 90 years or over were living in Northern Ireland in each year since 1995. [129781]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the official estimates of the population of Northern Ireland of residents aged 90 years and over, from 1995 to 2005.

Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates for residents aged 90 years or over, 1995 to 2005

Registration year	Persons aged 90 and over
1995	6,500
1996	6,900
1997	7,000
1998	7,300
1999	7,300
2000	7,200
2001	7,300
2002	7,400
2003	7,500
2004	8,000
2005	8,300

Prisons: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many drugs treatment programmes were in operation in each Northern Ireland prison in each of the last six years. [128014]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service has contracts with three voluntary support groups, one in each of the establishments, to provide counselling and education services to prisoners who have abused substances.

The number of drug and/or alcohol misuse programmes provided is as follows:

	Number
2002-03	17
2003-04	32
2004-05	28
2005-06	35
2006-07 (to end February)	57
Total	169

In addition there are very many counselling sessions with individual prisoners.

Roads: Bangor

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal accidents occurred at Six Road Ends in Bangor in each of the past six years; and what assessment was made of the cause in each case. [129586]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by the PSNI that as there may be ongoing civil and criminal proceedings

in respect of these collisions it is not possible to provide causation factors for each specific collision.

Please see the following table detailing history of injury road traffic collisions at the Six Road Ends junction, Bangor, covering the period from 1 January 2001 through to 31 December 2006.

1 January to 31 December	*Fatal collisions*	*Serious collisions*	*Slight collisions*	*All collisions*	*Killed*	*Seriously injured*	*Slightly injured*	*All casualties*
2001	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
2002	1	0	1	2	1	4	1	6
2003	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
2004	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
2005	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
2006	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3

Notes:
1. 2006 figures are provisional and subject to amendment.
2. Please note that collisions that occur at or within 50 metres of this junction are included.
3. Due to ongoing validation, this information may be subject to change.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh.

Universities: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total costs associated with building a new university on the Springvale site have been to date. [121663]

Maria Eagle: Springvale was to be a joint project, between the University of Ulster (UU) and the Belfast Institute, for a main campus, a community outreach centre and an applied research centre on a split site on the Springfield road. £9.2 million has been spent to date—£0.9 million from Government, £6 million from external sources and the remainder from the two institutions. The outreach centre has been built but, following the withdrawal of UU, the other two elements will not proceed. The Belfast Institute brought forward an alternative proposal for a workforce and economic development centre, to be located adjacent to the community outreach centre. This proposal received ministerial approval at April 2006 and, when delivered, will complete the regeneration of the south site.

Valuation and Lands Agency

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for how long the Valuation and Lands Agency has used pictometry techniques for valuations of domestic property. [128638]

Mr. Hanson: The Valuation and Lands Agency has never used pictometry techniques for valuations of domestic property.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which councils in Northern Ireland are willing to engage in the Valuation and Land Agency or Land and Property Services Agency's building control project. [128632]

Mr. Hanson: To date Belfast city council is the only council currently engaged in the Valuation and Lands Agency/Land and Property Services Agency's Building control project.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what advice the Valuation and Land Agency or Land and Property Services Agency has sought from *(a)* the Information Commission and *(b)* legal experts on the use of oblique aerial photography for valuation purposes. [128633]

Mr. Hanson: Valuation and Lands Agency/Land and Property Services Agency has not sought advice from *(a)* the Information Commissioner and *(b)* has had preliminary discussions with legal advisers on the use of oblique aerial photographs for valuation purposes.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information Belfast city council is providing to the Valuation and Lands Agency or Land and Property Services Agency as part of the building control project; and whether this includes the provision of photographs. [128634]

Mr. Hanson: As part of the building control project, Belfast city council provides the Valuation and Lands Agency/Land and Property Services with full survey details on new and altered properties. This generally includes a digital photograph of the front elevation of the property.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what use the *(a)* Valuation and Lands Agency and *(b)* Land and Property Services Agency is (i) making and (ii) planning to make of fee code segmentation data to determine value significance. [128640]

Mr. Hanson: The Valuation and Lands Agency/Land and Property Services Agency are (i) not currently making use of fee code segmentation data to determine value significant alterations to properties for rating purposes, but (ii) may consider the use of these data in the future.

Victims Commissioner

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applicants there were for the post of Victims Commissioner in Northern

Ireland, broken down by *(a)* gender and *(b)* religious affiliation; and how many applicants were (i) shortlisted and (ii) interviewed in each category. [129778]

Mr. Hanson: Out of the 46 applicants for the post of Commissioner for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland:

(a) There were 24 male and 22 female applicants.

(b) 29 were from a protestant community background, 21 from a Roman Catholic community background and six other.

14 were shortlisted for interview. One candidate (female and from a Roman Catholic community background) withdrew from the competition prior to the interviews being conducted, resulting in 13 candidates being interviewed.

Of those interviewed six were male and seven were female. Eight were from a Protestant community background, four from a Roman Catholic community background and there was one other.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the US to ensure the safe return of former residents of *(a)* the UK and *(b)* UK overseas territories being held at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay. [130216]

Dr. Howells: The Government are not in a position to provide consular or diplomatic protection to non-British nationals, including those detainees in Guantanamo Bay, who were formerly resident in the UK or UK overseas territories.

However, we agreed in March 2006 to make representations to the US government for the release of Mr. Bisher al-Rawi, an Iraqi national formerly resident in the UK, from Guantanamo Bay and his return to the UK. That decision was based on the particular circumstances in his case. On 6 April 2006, my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) wrote to the US Secretary of State to ask formally for Mr. al-Rawi's release and return. Detailed discussions between our Governments have continued ever since. While these are sensitive and complicated issues that take time, we are fully committed to securing Mr. al-Rawi's release from Guantanamo Bay and his return to the UK.

The Government continue to raise humanitarian concerns about detentions at Guantanamo Bay with the US authorities, including issues relating to detainees who were formerly resident in the UK.

Africa: Drugs

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of action taken to stop the trafficking of narcotics across African borders. [129424]

Dr. Howells: East and west Africa is increasingly being used as a transit route for cocaine and heroin from Latin America and Asia to European and other western markets. We have supported counter narcotics capacity building projects with local law enforcement agencies in Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia and Senegal to improve interdiction through the provision of training and equipment.

While significant challenges remain, our assistance is starting to have some impact in the region. In 2006 the Kenyan authorities destroyed over one ton of cocaine from an earlier seizure. In Ghana, drugs interdiction training and equipment at Accra International airport (Operation Westbridge) has achieved some good success interdicting cocaine couriers, since the start of its operation in November 2006. As at 21 March 2007, 40 couriers destined for the UK or Europe had been interdicted with seizures of 130 kg of cocaine and 413 kg of cannabis, with an estimated UK street value of £8.5 million. This progress proves the importance of supporting good law enforcement co-operation coupled with training on interdiction techniques.

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of relations between Ascension Islanders and the Island administrator. [129822]

Mr. Hoon: The administrator of Ascension Island has a good professional relationship with those living and working on the Island. That relationship is promoted through regular formal and informal meetings.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provisions have been made to hold elections to replace the Ascension Island councillors who have recently resigned. [129871]

Mr. Hoon: The Island Council (Ascension) Ordinance lays down the procedure for holding elections. Six out of a total of seven councillors have recently resigned just a little under half-way through a three year tenure. The acting governor of St. Helena and its Dependencies, as acting governor of Ascension, in consultation with the substantive governor and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is currently considering urgently whether in these circumstances a by-election should be held or the council should be dissolved so that a general election should take place.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when Ministers from her Department visited Ascension Island in each year since 1997; and what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* purpose was of each visit. [129982]

Mr. Hoon: My hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Bill Rammell) transited Ascension Island on 26 November 2003 en route to the Falkland Islands. During his visit, he had the opportunity to meet the Ascension Island councillors. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham,

was prevented from visiting Ascension Island on 15 December 2006 by bad weather. He had scheduled meetings with the Ascension Island councillors.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in providing permanent rights of *(a)* abode and *(b)* property ownership to residents of Ascension Island. [129984]

Mr. Hoon: After having weighed carefully the aspirations of those working and living on Ascension Island against the risk that a settled community might not be economically viable, the Government concluded that the UK would face unacceptable risks if the right of abode were granted and further development of property rights permitted. This decision was conveyed to the Ascension Island Council in my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham's letter of 19 January 2006.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received from the United States government on providing *(a)* permanent rights of abode and *(b)* property ownership rights to residents of Ascension Island. [129985]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no representations from the US Administration on providing permanent right of abode and property ownership rights to residents of Ascension Island.

Cambodia: Administration of Justice

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the independence from the political process of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia trying suspects accused of serious crimes under the Khmer Rouge regime. [129560]

Dr. Howells: The Government support an independent, UN-supported tribunal that will help strengthen accountability, the rule of law and judicial reform in present day Cambodia as well as hold to account those suspected of being most responsible for the serious crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge period. We, and other interested states, continue to encourage all parties to work together to ensure the credibility and success of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. We are monitoring developments at the tribunal closely.

Cameroon

Mr. Clayton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been made by the High Commission in Yaoundé on the arrest and detention of Dr. Nfor Ngala Nfor and other members of the Southern Cameroon National Council in Bamenda. [128874]

Mr. McCartney: Our high commission in Yaounde has not made any representations to the Cameroon authorities regarding this incident. However, since learning of the arrest and detention of 11 Southern Cameroon National Council members, including Dr. Nfor Ngala Nfor, the high commission in Yaounde has been in contact with the National Human Rights Commission and Freedoms representative in Bamenda. That representative has met with Dr. Nfor at the prison, who confirmed that their health situation was good and they were being detained under normal Cameroon prison conditions, including having access to their legal counsel and families.

Ten of the 11 detainees including, Dr. Nfor Ngala Nfor, were released on bail on 14 March. Hearings on preliminary investigation into the arrests have been scheduled for 17 April. The high commission will continue to follow the case.

China

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the compliance by China, in respect of its occupation of Tibet, with Article 49 paragraph six of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. [129373]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The Government have not made any assessment of the situation in Tibet in relation to paragraph six, Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Successive Governments have regarded Tibet as autonomous while recognising the special position of the Chinese authorities there. We encourage the Chinese Government to put history aside and move towards a solution to the present problems in Tibet, doing so most recently at the latest round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in London on 5 February. We continue to urge China to engage in dialogue with representatives of the Dalai Lama, without preconditions.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's assessment is of the democratic process in Egypt. [128868]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* The Egyptian Government have committed to a process of political reform. In recent years some important reforms have taken place. The constitution was amended in 2005 to allow multi-candidate presidential elections to be held for the first time. Domestic monitors were allowed to observe parliamentary and presidential elections for the first time in 2005. In December 2006, President Mubarak announced further constitutional amendments; these will be voted on in a referendum today. The President has also committed to ending the state of emergency by May 2008.

There is scope for further progress in enhancing the transparency and independence of the electoral system, as well as increasing the participation of women in the political process. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the reforms and the constitutional amendments. We will also continue to work with Egypt to promote democracy and human rights.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made on the raids of 23 and 25 February 2007 by US and Iraqi forces on the head offices of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers; what reports she has received on the damage caused; and if she will make a statement. [129566]

Dr. Howells: We have made no representations on this matter. We are aware of the raids on the offices of the General Federation of Iraqi Workers. These were carried out by Iraqi security forces with the backing of multi-national forces as part of ongoing security operations—several other offices and institutions have also been subject to similar operations. We strongly support the Iraqi Government's efforts to improve security, which are essential to improving the situation across the whole country.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria the Government use when formulating policy of opposing or supporting development of nuclear capability by other states. [129555]

Dr. Howells: The Government are bound by their commitment under article IV of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty to be supportive of the development of peaceful nuclear technology by all states party to the treaty. The state party concerned must, of course, be in compliance with its treaty obligations, particularly those under articles I and II, but also under article III, to be the beneficiary of such support.

Policy towards those not in compliance with their treaty, or International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, obligations is formulated case by case.

Pakistan: Entry Clearances

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether HM High Commission, Islamabad, has received the decision papers from the Immigration Appeals Tribunal in respect of cases VA/08797/2006, VA/08788/2006 and VA/08793/2006 concerning Mr F. A., Mrs R. B. and Miss M. M., relatives of Mrs N. S. of Aylesbury. [127745]

Dr. Howells: The determinations in respect of the cases of Mr. F A, Mrs. R. B. and Miss M. M. were received in our High Commission in Islamabad in October and November 2006. These cases were part of the backlog of allowed appeal cases, but the papers have now been linked with their files and passed to a casework officer for a brief review before the applicants are contacted and invited to submit their passports so that their visas can be issued.

The Visa Section in Islamabad aim for this to be done within the next week.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many refused immigration applications are awaiting review by entry clearance managers at HM High Commission, Islamabad. [127748]

Dr. Howells: All refused applications are reviewed by an entry clearance manager within 24 hours.

Pakistan: Religious Persons

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many imams were granted entry clearance from Pakistan to carry out religious duties in the UK in each year since 1995. [129064]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by my hon. Friend is listed as follows:

Visas granted to Imams from Pakistan 1995-2006

	Number
1995-97	0
1998	33
1999	25
2000	31
2001	134
2002	46
2003	40
2004	68
2005	22
2006	23
Total	422

Paramjeet Singh

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received on the case of Mr Paramjeet Singh, arrested in India on 23 December 2006; and what action she has taken following Paramjeet Singh's arrest. [129232]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received a number of letters from hon. Members about Mr. Singh's case.

Officials from our High Commission in New Delhi sought consular access as soon as we were notified of his arrest. We visited Mr. Singh in prison on 30 December 2006 and again on 22 February. We will continue to provide Mr. Singh and his family with appropriate consular assistance.

Saudi Arabia

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she last met her counterpart in Saudi Arabia. [129857]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met Prince Saud, her Saudi counterpart, in Paris on 25 January.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her counterpart in Saudi Arabia. [129858]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last spoke to Prince Saud, the Saudi Foreign Minister, on 21 March. They discussed regional issues related to the forthcoming Arab League Summit in Riyadh.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she plans to visit Saudi Arabia in the near future. [129859]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary had planned to visit Saudi Arabia from 21-22 March. However, because of preparations for the Arab League summit next week, it was agreed that the visit should be postponed. We hope that the visit will be reinstated soon.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Community Court Schemes

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the Community Court schemes in Salford and Liverpool. [128166]

Ms Harman: Both the Liverpool and Salford Community Justice schemes have been undergoing extensive quantative and qualitative evaluations. It is anticipated that the final reports will be published in May. Community justice makes a key contribution to the Government's Respect Action Plan, which was published in January 2006. It aims to strengthen the links between the courts, the criminal justice system and the local community so that local people's confidence in the work of the courts and the wider criminal justice system increases. As the Lord Chancellor said in his written ministerial statement of 27 November 2006, the Government are now establishing 10 further community justice initiatives. The aim of this next phase of community justice work is to provide further learning and best practice so that in the long term the principles of community justice are applied in the courts and the criminal justice system throughout England and Wales.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the most recent re-offending rates are in England and Wales; and what the re-offending rates have been from the Community Court schemes in Salford and Liverpool. [128167]

Ms Harman: Figures from November 2006 from the Home Office put the most recent re-offending rate for England and Wales at 57.6 per cent. This is measured for adult offenders over two years following the date of release from prison or sentence to a community order. Since it is less than two years since the launch of both Liverpool and Salford, these figures are not yet available.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the most recent attendance rate by the accused at court is in England and Wales; and what the rate has been at the Community Court schemes in Salford and Liverpool. [128168]

Ms Harman: The Home Office Criminal Statistics Bulletin 2005 states that, nationally, 8 per cent. of adult defendants fail to appear in the magistrates court. Figures for 2006 are not yet available. Figures for the Community Justice Centre in Liverpool, which opened in September 2005, show that in 2006, 20 per cent. of adult and 15 per cent. of youth offenders failed to attend court. The Liverpool Community Justice Centre has a different caseload, however, to a normal magistrates court and also sits as a Crown court. These figures are not collected at Salford magistrates court.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to transfer funds from HM Coroner for Oxfordshire to HM Coroner for Wiltshire following the decision to transfer cases of multiple military deaths overseas from RAF Brize Norton to RAF Lyneham; and if she will make a statement. [129138]

Ms Harman: The exceptional funds provided to the Oxfordshire coroner were to clear a backlog of inquests which had developed. I will continue to regularly review progress regarding these inquests.

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what new arrangements she plans to make to fund HM Coroners following her decision to transfer responsibility for coroners inquests from Oxfordshire to the home counties of individual deceased military personnel; and if she will make a statement. [129139]

Ms Harman: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the additional costs falling on HM Coroner for Wiltshire arising from the transfer of cases of multiple military deaths overseas from Oxfordshire to Wiltshire. [129140]

Ms Harman: We have no costings for the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner handling potential multiple inquests of fatalities repatriated to RAF Lyneham.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many military inquests were conducted in *(a)* Oxfordshire and *(b)* Wiltshire in each of the last five years. [129631]

Ms Harman: We are seeking the relevant information from the Oxfordshire coroner. The Wiltshire coroner's office has advised that five military inquests were held in 2002, eight were held in 2003 (of which one remains outstanding), none in 2004, six in 2005 and two in 2006.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what extra funding and staffing has been given to the Oxfordshire Coroner to assist with the cost of military inquests incurred due to the use of RAF Brize Norton for the repatriation of bodies; and what additional resources will be given to the Wiltshire Coroner when those duties are transferred to RAF Lyneham on 1 April. [129632]

Ms Harman: To clear the backlog of military inquests the Oxfordshire coroner has been provided with the funding authority to employ three additional assistant deputy coroners, three additional coroner's officers, one additional administrative officer and recording equipment to enable two courts to run simultaneously. To date, the Department for Constitutional Affairs has received invoices totalling £115,000 for this additional resource. It is not planned to provide additional resources to the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner who we understand intends to transfer as many of the military inquests as he can to the coroners nearest to the bereaved family. I will continue to regularly review the progress of military inquests.

Courts: Security

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what funding her Department provided for security in courts in each year since 2001. [129150]

Ms Harman: Between 2001 and the creation of Her Majesty's Courts Service in 2005 my Department provided funding, either directly or as capital grant or resource funding, to all courts in England and Wales. Due to the nature of this allocation method, to determine what funding was provided for security in courts for each year would incur a disproportionate cost.

Post 2005, all budgets were and continue to be devolved to the seven regions which comprise Her Majesty's Courts Service and funding for security is not recorded separately. To extract security costs from the general planned maintenance budget and other provisions in courts in England and Wales would incur a disproportionate cost to collate.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department has taken to improve security at courts in England and Wales since 2001. [129151]

Ms Harman: My Department continually reviews the security arrangements at courts in England and Wales to ensure that appropriate security measures are in place. Since 2001, my Department has sought to ensure that those measures achieve and continue to achieve the necessary levels of protection through a process of risk management.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many security staff are employed at *(a)* High Court premises and *(b)* Crown court premises in England and Wales. [129152]

Ms Harman: My Department currently employ 60 security staff in the High Court and 306 in Crown courts throughout England and Wales. To ensure that there is no double counting, a separate figure has not been provided for locations when a High Court judge is on circuit, as they sit in existing Crown high court locations.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment has been made of security arrangements at courts in England and Wales following recent bombings of courts sittings in terrorism trials in Pakistan. [129153]

Ms Harman: Her Majesty's Courts Service, an Executive Agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs, continually review the security arrangements of courts in England and Wales. The risks posed to all court buildings, staff and court users are assessed to ensure that appropriate measures are in place and that those measures are achieving the correct levels of protection through a process of risk management.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128062]

Ms Harman: Since its inception in June 2003, the Department for Constitutional Affairs has conducted the following advertising:

- a regional poster campaign on buses to promote recruitment to the lay magistracy
- a national campaign to promote recruitment to the lay magistracy
- radio and press adverts to target court fine defaulters (under the title Operation Payback)
- press adverts to promote voting fraud prevention
- invitations in the legal press to comment on Lord Carter's Review of Legal Aid Procurement
- a campaign in London to encourage voter registration by 18 to 24-year-olds

My Department has not conducted any television advertising since June 2003.

£

	Project	Radio	Press/ poster
2003-04	Operation Payback (Phase 1)	79,000	133,000
	Magistrate recruitment	—	431,000
2004-05	Operation Payback (Phase 2)	95,000	164,000
	Magistrate recruitment	—	124,000
2005-06	Postal voting	—	188,000
	Magistrate recruitment	107,000	522,000
	Operation Payback (Phase 3) 2006	94,000	158,000

	Project	Radio	£ Press/ poster
	Lord Carter's Review of Legal Aid Procurement	—	24,000
	Voter registration	62,000	—
2006-07	Operation Payback (Phase 4)	—	21,000
	Magistrate recruitment	8,617	62,000

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much her Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and other publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [128895]

Ms Harman: For the period March 2006 to March 2007 my Department placed the following advertorials:

In November 2006 an advertorial was placed in Media Today to help raise awareness of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 among health and social care practitioners. The cost for this was £204.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128767]

Ms Harman: During 2006 *(a)* I held two meetings with trade union representatives; *(b)* other Ministers in my Department held 13 meetings with trade union representatives, as set out in the following table.

	Number
Lord Falconer	[1]5
Baroness Ashton	[1]1
Vera Baird	0
Bridget Prentice	[1]10

[1] Two meetings with union representatives were held jointly by Lord Falconer and Bridget Prentice and one jointly by Lord Falconer and Baroness Ashton.

Gender Recognition Act 2004

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether criminal actions under section 22 of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 can be pursued for any period, so long as evidence still exists. [129399]

Vera Baird: No. Disclosure of protected information under section 22 of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 is a summary offence. The relevant time limit is set out in section 127 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980. Under that section, a court can only deal with an alleged offence if a complaint or information is submitted to the relevant authorities within six months of the event that gave rise to it.

Legal Aid

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the effect on those *(a)* affected by domestic violence and *(b)* on low incomes of the proposed changes to legal aid arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [129570]

Ms Harman: Domestic violence is a cross-Government priority and formalised through the formation of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Domestic Violence. The Group comprises of Ministers from nine Government Departments and the three devolved administrations. In light of the assessments and priority need, the group prepares an Annual Delivery Plan and reports against progress each year. The report for 2006-07 will be published shortly together with the Delivery Plan for 2007-08.

Domestic Violence proceedings are a priority area for legal aid funding. The Legal Services Commission's (LSC's) Funding Code Criteria for domestic violence cases are wider than for most other family and non-family areas; they are not limited to any specific definition of domestic violence or abuse. When appearing in a family court, persons of limited means will be funded in all but the most exceptional of circumstances. As a separate measure to the wider programme of legal aid reform as set out in "Legal Aid Reform: The Way Ahead" the financial eligibility limits for legal aid for domestic violence victims will be raised and both income and capital limits will be able to waived, by the LSC, on a discretionary basis from 9 April 2007. In criminal proceedings, the Crown Prosecution Service represents the victim of domestic violence.

Miscarriages of Justice: Family Courts

John Hemming: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) which Minister would be responsible for assessing whether systemic miscarriages of justice were occurring in the family courts; [129162]

(2) if she will establish a review of family court cases where Dr. David Southall retained a special case file. [129163]

Ms Harman: My right hon. Friend The Lord Chancellor is responsible for supporting the efficient and effective administration of the courts. The judiciary is primarily responsible for guarding against miscarriages of justice and they are entirely independent of the executive. It is open to the parties in an individual case to seek legal advice about the route to appeal if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of the case.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Skills has inquiry-ordering powers in relation to the exercise by local authorities of their children's services functions. In 2004, a review of cases that were before the family courts, and of children for whom the courts have made care orders (under section 31 of the Children Act 1989) was undertaken by local authorities at the request of my right hon. Friend the

Secretary of State for Education and Skills, the results of which were reported to Parliament. There are currently no plans to conduct a review of family court cases in which Dr. David Southall has been involved.

National Archives

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact on delivery of services to researchers of the reduction in support for the National Archive. [129110]

Vera Baird: The National Archives measures the delivery of its services against published key performance indicators. At this point in the performance year, the National Archives is meeting all of its published targets relating to the delivery of services to researchers, of which the principal measure is customer satisfaction. Customer satisfaction with services provided at Kew and at the Family Records Centre in Islington is currently running at 95 per cent. against a target of 90 per cent.

Voting

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) whether an individual will be entitled to refuse to provide the personal identifier details in the event that the Government introduces personal identification in polling stations pursuant to the Electoral Administration Act 2006; and whether that individual would be entitled to receive a ballot paper and vote in such circumstances; [129439]

(2) whether she plans that an individual will have to provide his or her signature in a polling station before voting. [129440]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to my previous answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 336W.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the reasons are for the differences in the procedures in relation to personal identifiers for those that vote by post and those who vote in person at a polling station. [129481]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act, as approved by Parliament, provides for a polling station voter to provide a signature, while a postal voter must provide both a signature and date of birth. The greater level of security applied to postal voting addresses concerns about the security of postal voting.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Academy: Isle of Sheppey

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding Kent county council is providing for the proposed Academy on the Isle of Sheppey. [118270]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 February 2007]:* Kent county council has made a public commitment to provide £1 million sponsorship towards the proposed Academy on Sheppey. Any additional funding required will be identified as the Academy proposals develop.

Act of Union

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in what ways the 300th Anniversary of the Act of Union between England and Scotland will be officially commemorated in events and activities in English schools. [116895]

Jim Knight: The Department considers it important that schools have autonomy to plan their own timetables, including the commemoration of significant events. The current curricula for both Citizenship and History provide opportunities for schools to discuss the Act of Union. For instance, the statutory Citizenship curriculum for all secondary schools requires that pupils be taught about the origins and implications of the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the work of parliament and government.

Admissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many admissions appeals were heard for pupils in the Peterborough Local Education Authority in each year since 1997; how many were successful; and if he will make a statement. [129410]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The information requested is shown in the table, as reported by schools and local authorities.

Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to maintained primary and secondary schools 1997/98 to 2006/07, Peterborough local authority area

	Primary					Secondary				
		Appeals heard		Appeals decided in parent's favour			Appeals heard		Appeals decided in parent's favour	
	Number of appeals lodged	No.	%	No.	%	Number of appeals lodged	No.	%	No.	%
1997/98	96	90	93.8	44	48.9	146	131	89.7	59	45.0
1998/99	153	112	73.2	43	38.4	181	157	86.7	63	40.1
1999/2000	101	58	57.4	18	31.0	190	163	85.8	65	39.9
2000/01	101	65	64.4	30	46.2	167	147	88.0	59	40.1
2001/02	94	60	63.8	25	41.7	257	235	91.4	93	39.6
2002/03	58	42	72.4	14	33.3	139	125	89.9	27	21.6

Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to maintained primary and secondary schools 1997/98 to 2004/05, Peterborough local authority area

	Primary					Secondary				
		Appeals heard		Appeals decided in parent's favour			Appeals heard		Appeals decided in parent's favour	
	Number of appeals lodged	No.	%[1]	No.	%[2]	Number of appeals lodged	No.	%[1]	No.	%[2]
2003/04	86	60	69.8	29	48.3	154	140	90.9	47	33.6
2004/05	74	46	62.2	20	43.5	213	188	88.3	58	30.9

[1] Number of appeals heard by a panel expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals lodged by parents.
[2] Number of appeals decided in parents' favour expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals heard by a panel.
Source:
Admission Appeals Survey and the Annual Schools Census.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many people in *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships (i) were participating in a programme-led apprenticeship and (ii) had successfully completed the full framework of a programme-led apprenticeship in each year since the inception of programme-led apprenticeships; [127397]

(2) what the non-completion rate was for *(a)* programme-led apprenticeships, *(b)* programme-led advanced apprenticeships, *(c)* non-programme-led apprenticeships and *(d)* non-programme-led advanced apprenticeships in each year since the inception of programme-led apprenticeships. [127398]

Phil Hope: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can be derived from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The work-based learning (WBL) ILR was collated as an interim collection for the first time in 2001/02 and figures are presented from that time.

The programme-led pathway (PLP) is an initiative to enable more learners to enter an employed status apprenticeship programme. When they achieve their agreed goals, learners cease to be on a PLP and then become mainstream apprentices. Learners could start their pathway in WBL or FE (completing their non-employed learning). Once they attain employed status they will transfer to mainstream WBL.

It is possible to calculate participation for programme-led apprenticeships from the ILR data, but because it is difficult to accurately identify learners in mainstream WBL who started on a pathway, progression onto mainstream apprenticeships cannot be accurately calculated. The concept of framework achievement is not appropriate for programme-led pathways because an apprenticeship can only be completed in full, in employment. As the programme-led phase is not employment, learners on this pathway can only ever finish part of the framework.

Non-completion is not a standard measure for apprenticeships. (A learner could complete all of their learning but not gain achievement.) One measure of performance is the success rate, which is calculated as the number of leavers who either meet all of the requirements of their apprenticeship framework, or achieve an NVQ required by the framework, divided by the number of learners who have either left training or successfully completed their programme.

The following table shows the success rate for apprenticeship courses on an annual basis.

England	Advanced apprenticeship success rate	Apprenticeship success rate
		Percentage
2001/02	26	22
2002/03	32	24
2003/04	32	30
2004/05	38	40

In order to successfully complete an apprenticeship the learner must achieve each element required by their particular framework; that would include an NVQ, Key Skills and any other required qualification.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1249W, on apprentices, how many and what proportion of *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships had (i) a separately assessed off-the-job technical certificate and (ii) their technical qualification integrated into the delivery and assessment of the National Vocational Qualifications in each year since 1997. [128039]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 21 March 2007]:* Data on Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships are collected on the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). This can record all of the individual learning aims that an Apprentice is undertaking as part of the framework, including those identified as separate technical certificates. However, we are unable to identify whether an Apprenticeship framework without a technical certificate is because *(a)* the learning is integrated into the delivery and assessment of the NVQ; or *(b)* the learner has previously achieved this qualification.

Children's Centres: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the criteria were for approving children's centres in Kensington and Chelsea; and in what locations in the borough he expects children's centres to be operational by 2008. [128676]

Beverley Hughes: There are currently four Sure Start Children's Centres in Kensington and Chelsea. Approval for the designation of centres operating in the most disadvantaged areas of England is given when the following criteria are met: centres are open five days a week, ten hours a day, 48 weeks a year; integrated care and learning is available for children under five, with the support of at least half the time of a qualified teacher; links with Jobcentre Plus are agreed; and plans are in place to provide health, family support and outreach services within an agreed geographical area.

Kensington and Chelsea have not yet finalised the locations for their children's centres for phase 2 of the programme (2006-08). This information will be submitted to the Department in the next few weeks following further negotiations with local providers. The Department's chosen delivery partner, Together for Children, is working very closely with the local authority to ensure that appropriate high quality Sure Start services are delivered within the borough.

City Academies: Darwen

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to be able to announce the name chosen for the new academy in Darwen. [126391]

Jim Knight: The Darwen Academy project is currently in the feasibility stage, which is expected to last until autumn this year. Once this is complete and the funding agreement has been signed we will be able to announce details for this academy. It is not the Department's normal practice to announce formally the name of academies but I can confirm that the project is known locally as the Darwen Aldridge Community Academy.

City Academies: Pay

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which academies run a system of performance-related pay for their staff. [127354]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold details of which academies run a system of performance related pay for their staff.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128063]

Alan Johnson: The Department's total spend on advertising campaigns since 1997 has been:

	£
1997-98	9,992,000
1998-99	15,673,000
1999-2000	11,900,000

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of campaigns before 2000.

Campaign	£
2000-01	
Don't Quit Now	2,700,000
New deal 50 plus	2,400,000
ICT Employability	2,011,000
Childcare Recruitment	1,821,000
Parent's Magazine	1,484,000
Disability Discrimination	1,242,000
Fast Track Teachers	1,056,000
Modern Apprenticeships	856,000
Individual Learning Accounts	612,000
	29,110,000
2001-02	
Adult Basic Skills 'Get on'	5,096,143
Childcare recruitment	2,504,000
Science Year 2001/02	1,803,000
Excellence Challenge	1,750,000
Modern Apprenticeships	1,670,000
Foundation Degree	1,325,000
Fast Track Teachers	1,250,000
Millennium Volunteers	848,000
Parents' Magazine	770,000
New Deal 25+	633,600
	17,665,000
2002-03	
Adult Basic Skills	5,478,117
Childcare Recruitment	2,741,377
Aim Higher	2,649,999
Connexions	1,320,331
HE Funding	655,000
Foundation Degree	549,397
	13,790,000
2003-04	
Adult Basic Skills	6,672,938
Aim Higher	4,190,018
Childcare Recruitment	2,986,659
Foundation Degree	2,813,787
Connexions	2,608,005
	20,170,000

2004-05

	Press budget national	*Press budget regional*	*TV air time*	*Radio air time*	£ *Total*
EMA 2004/05	679,169	—	993,627	320,137	1,994,933
Sure Start Month 2004/05	127,002	—	—	—	127,002
Adult Basic Skills Counsellor 2004/05	289,980	309,773	2,940,663	726,321	4,266,737
Teenage Pregnancy (DFES) 2004/05	19,130	—	—	960,997	980,127
Student Finance 2004/05	183,136	—	—	684,236	867,372

2004-05

	Press budget national	Press budget regional	TV air time	Radio air time	£ Total
DFES Classified/Recruitment Advertising 2004/05	31,434	—	—	—	31,434
EMA Summer Activity 2004/05	136,317	—	—	97,950	234,267
Fast Track Teaching 2004/05	69,342	—	—	—	69,342
Foundation Degrees 2004/05	—	—	—	483,463	483,463
DFES Childcare 2004/05	—	281,269	—	—	281,269
EMA (February to March) 2004/05	579,272	149,726	244,994	350,342	1,324,334
Need to Know 2004/05	—	—	—	275,116	275,116
DFES Parents Centre 2004/05	172,284	—	—	—	172,284
	2,267,066	740,768	4,181,284	3,898,562	11,087,680

2005-06

	Press budget national	Press budget regional	TV air time	Radio air time	£ Total
DFES Sure Start 2005/06	2,527	—	—		2,527
EMA 2005/06	170,803	—	785,980	304,526	1,261,309
Teenage Pregnancy 2005/06	143,155	—	400,390	537,859	1,081,404
Childcare Recruitment 05/06	—	288,672	—	302,086	590,758
DFES Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins 2005/06	—	—	1,237,864	206,596	1,444,460
DFES Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins Miscellaneous 2005/06	125,687	—	—	—	125,687
Student Finance 2005/06	196,158	—	1,400,455	460,172	2,056,785
DFES Parents Centre 2005/06	142,771	—	—	—	142,771
ECM Press Advertising 2005/06	1,984	—	—	—	1,984
Foundation Degrees 2005/06	412,942	—	—	221,412	634,354
Fast Track Teaching 2005/06	17,806	—	—	—	17,806
DFES Parenting Franchise (Direct Gov Launch) 2005/06	292,565	—	—	147,313	439,878
DFES Education and Learning—Launch Campaign 2005/06	—	—	—	85,479	85,479
Need to Know 2005/06	—	—	—	53,971	53,971
	1,506,398	288,672	3,824,690	2,319,515	7,939,275

Departments: Consultation Papers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* title, *(b)* date of issue and *(c)* consultation period was of each document issued for limited consultation by his Department in each year since 2003. [127382]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills Consultation Unit records show that 45 documents for limited consultation were issued between 1 January 2003 and 12 March 2007.

The following table shows the breakdown for each year, with the title, date of issue and length of consultation period.

Title	Date of issue	Period (weeks)
2003		
Draft order for Foundation Stage Part of National Curriculum	2 December 2002 to 16 January 2003	6
Draft Regulations for Consistent Financial Reporting	16 December 2002 to 31 January 2003	6
Consultation on School Organisation Planning and Decision Making	4 February 2003 to 11 April 2003	9
Construction Industry Training Board Quinquennial Review	24 March 2003 to 16 May 2003	7
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board Quinquennial Review	24 March 2003 to 16 May 2003	7
Consultation on the Publication of School and College Performance Tables	10 April 2003 to 12 June 2003	5
Consultation on the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications)(England) Regulations 2003	10 April 2003 to 16 May 2003	5
Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Key Stage 4 Curriculum	12 May 2003 to 18 July 2003	10
Consultation on proposed changes to the Consistent Financial Reporting Framework	14 May 2003 to 20 June 2003	9
Technical Consultation—Mandatory National Professional Qualification for Headship Regulations and Guidance	16 May 2003 to 7 July 2003	7
Performance Data Framework for Local Education Authorities	4 June 2003 to 18 July 2003	6
Review of Childcare Standards and Regulations	9 June 2003 to 18 July 2003	5

Title	Date of issue	Period (weeks)
Draft regulations and guidance on School Governance Federation and Collaborations	18 June 2003 to 18 July 2003	4
Consultation on the Proposal for London Student Pledge	20 June 2003 to 30 July 2003	6
Consultation on Interim Executive Board Regulations	30 June 2003 to 26 September 2003	12
Consultation on the Re-Enactment of the Health Standards Provisions of the Education (Teachers' Qualifications and Health Standards) (England) Regulations 1999	21 October 2003 to 21 November 2003	4
Consultation on the Education-Related Provisions included in the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill	3 October 2003 to 22 December 2003	11
2004		
Consultation on Implementing the Financial Management Standard and Toolkit	18 December 2003 to 16 February 2004	8
Consultation on the Draft Commission for Social Care Inspection. (Children's Rights Director) Regulations 2004	12 December 2003 to 16 January 2004	5
Consultation on amendments to the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 1997	10 December 2003 to 6 February 2004	8
Defining e-Government Priority Service and Transformation Outcomes in 2005 for Local Authorities in England.	16 December 2003 to 27 January 2004	6
2005		
Review of Further Education	7 February 2005 to 30 April 2005	12
School Meals and School Food Trust	24 February 2005 to 22 March 2005	4
Lead Professional Good Practice Guidance	11 March 2005 to 4 April 2005	4
Reducing Re-offenders Through Skills and Employment	18 March 2005 to 25 May 2005	9
Draft Teachers' Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2005	23 March 2005 to 16 May 2005	7
	8 June 2005 to 4 July 2005	3
School Inspection Regulations	2 June 2005 to 15 July 2005	6
Further Education Review (second consultation phase)	21 June 2005 to 17 August 2005	8
Review of Higher Education Student Finance Delivery	13 July 2005 to 5 October 2005	12
Proposed Amendment to the Children (NI, Guernsey and IOM) Regulations 1991	13 July 2005 to 31 August 2005	7
Procuring School Meals—Draft for consultation	29 July 2005 to 30 December 2005	22
Consultation on Modified Distribution Method for DSG for 2006/07 and 2007/08	5 August 2005 to 30 September 2005	8
Statutory Duty on Local Authorities to identify children missing education	18 November 2005 to 19 December 2005	4
2006		
Consultation on the Repeal of Reg 7 of the Education (Schools and Further and Higher Education) Regs 1989	1 March 2006 to 23 May 2006	12
Transforming School Food: Standards for School Food other than Lunch	2 March 2006 to 31 March 2006	4
Draft Welsh Language Scheme	21 June 2006 to 2 August 2006	6
Islam in Universities	16 August 2006 to 31 March 2007	33
Pre Recruitment Checks	18 September 2006 to 21 December 2006	13
FE: Raising skills, improving life chances: the implications for race equality	29 September 2006 to 27 October 2006	4
Supplementary Consultation on School Admissions	7 November 2006 to 1 December 2006	3
2007		
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	16 November 2006 to 21 January 2007	9
Language Review	14 December 2006 to 31 January 2007	7
Early Years Foundation Stage Learning and Development Requirements Order	20 December 2006 to 2 February 2007	6
Amendments to the Education (ISS) provision of information, Inspection Fees (England) Regs 2003 and 2004	1 February 2007 to 30 April 2007	12
Developing provision for children with Special Educational Needs	8 March 2004 to 6 April 2007	4

Education: Per Capita Costs

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the amount of money available to each English local education authority per school pupil was in the school year 1996-97 in *(a)* actual and *(b)* real terms at 2007 prices, ranked in order of the amount of grant available from his Department. [122107]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 21 February 2007]:* The figures in the following table show the education blocks of the 1996-97 Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) settlement (part of the Local Government Finance

Settlement from what was then Department of Environment) plus Grants for Education, Support and Training from the then Department for Education and Employment. The table does not include the Isles of Scilly and the City of London due to their small size.

Funding for pupils aged five to 15 and reflects the 132 local authorities that existed in 1996-97

LEA	Cash terms	Real terms
Tower Hamlets	3,520	4,370
Lambeth	3,500	4,350
Hackney	3,470	4,310
Southwark	3,320	4,120
Islington	3,300	4,100
Camden	3,260	4,050
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,230	4,010
Lewisham	3,210	3,990
Greenwich	3,130	3,890
Westminster	3,080	3,820
Wandsworth	3,050	3,790
Kensington and Chelsea	3,030	3,760
Haringey	3,030	3,760
Newham	3,010	3,740
Brent	2,970	3,690
Waltham Forest	2,870	3,560
Ealing	2,750	3,420
Hounslow	2,710	3,370
Manchester	2,670	3,320
Enfield	2,650	3,290
Barking and Dagenham	2,640	3,280
Croydon	2,620	3,250
Redbridge	2,600	3,230
Knowsley	2,580	3,200
Merton	2,550	3,170
Barnet	2,540	3,150
Harrow	2,540	3,150
Liverpool	2,540	3,150
Hillingdon	2,530	3,140
Birmingham	2,510	3,120
Sutton	2,500	3,100
Bexley	2,460	3,050
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,450	3,040
Havering	2,440	3,030
Kingston upon Thames	2,430	3,020
Middlesbrough	2,430	3,020
Wolverhampton	2,420	3,010
Isle of Wight Council	2,420	3,010
Hertfordshire	2,410	2,990
Bradford	2,400	2,980
Bromley	2,390	2,970
City of Kingston-upon-Hull	2,390	2,970
Sandwell	2,380	2,960
Bedfordshire[1]	2,380	2,960
Essex[1]	2,380	2,960
Coventry	2,370	2,940
Redcar and Cleveland	2,370	2,940
Berkshire[1]	2,370	2,940
Salford	2,360	2,930
Doncaster	2,360	2,930
East Sussex[1]	2,360	2,930
Kent[1]	2,360	2,930
Surrey	2,360	2,930

Funding for pupils aged five to 15 and reflects the 132 local authorities that existed in 1996-97

LEA	Cash terms	Real terms
Richmond upon Thames	2,350	2,920
Buckinghamshire[1]	2,350	2,920
Wirral	2,340	2,910
Rochdale	2,340	2,910
South Tyneside	2,340	2,910
Oldham	2,330	2,890
Gateshead	2,330	2,890
Sunderland	2,320	2,880
City of Bristol	2,320	2,880
Hartlepool	2,320	2,880
Walsall	2,310	2,870
Sheffield	2,310	2,870
Cornwall	2,310	2,870
Durham[1]	2,310	2,870
West Sussex	2,310	2,870
Rotherham	2,300	2,860
Calderdale	2,300	2,860
Hampshire[1]	2,300	2,860
Oxfordshire	2,300	2,860
Kirklees	2,290	2,840
Stockton-on-Tees	2,290	2,840
North East Lincolnshire	2,290	2,840
Lincolnshire	2,290	2,840
Norfolk	2,290	2,840
North Lincolnshire	2,280	2,830
Nottinghamshire[1]	2,280	2,830
Barnsley	2,270	2,820
North Tyneside	2,270	2,820
Cambridgeshire[1]	2,270	2,820
Cumbria	2,270	2,820
Devon[1]	2,270	2,820
Lancashire[1]	2,270	2,820
Northumberland	2,270	2,820
St. Helens	2,260	2,810
Sefton	2,260	2,810
Bolton	2,260	2,810
North Yorkshire	2,260	2,810
Leicestershire[1]	2,260	2,810
Shropshire[1]	2,260	2,810
Leeds	2,250	2,790
Somerset	2,240	2,780
Northamptonshire	2,230	2,770
Wigan	2,220	2,760
Derbyshire[1]	2,220	2,760
Dorset[1]	2,220	2,760
Gloucestershire	2,220	2,760
Hereford and Worcester[1]	2,220	2,760
Wiltshire[1]	2,220	2,760
Tameside	2,210	2,740
Trafford	2,210	2,740
Wakefield	2,210	2,740
Cheshire[1]	2,210	2,740
Suffolk	2,210	2,740
Warwickshire	2,210	2,740
Dudley	2,200	2,730
Bury	2,200	2,730
East Riding of Yorkshire	2,200	2,730
York	2,200	2,730

Funding for pupils aged five to 15 and reflects the 132 local authorities that existed in 1996-97

LEA	Cash terms	Real terms
Staffordshire[1]	2,190	2,720
Bath and North East Somerset	2,180	2,710
Solihull	2,170	2,690
Stockport	2,160	2,680
North Somerset	2,160	2,680
South Gloucestershire	2,120	2,630
England	2,370	2,940

[1] LEAs affected by local government re-organisation in 1997-98.

Notes:

1. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) settlement and Grants for Education, Support and Training.
2. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA settlement calculations.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash and real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 21 December 2006.

English Language

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on teaching English as a foreign language in Bedfordshire and Luton in 2005-06; and what the expected estimated total expenditure is in 2007-08. [129377]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer23 March 2007]:* The following figures are for Further Education Learning Skills Council funded aims with Bedfordshire and Luton Providers in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Learning Aim Title	Data	2005-06 (F05)	2006-07 (F01)	Grand total
Certificate in teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA)	Aims		18	18
	Funding (£)		10,791	10,791
Basic ESOL course, entry level	Aims	82	38	120
	Funding (£)	44,255	23,155	67,410
Basic ESOL Course, Level 1	Aims	7	1	9
	Funding (£)	2,715	1,143	3,858
Basic ESOL Course, Level 2	Aims	7	5	
	Funding (£)	742	801	1,543
Certificate in English (ESOL)	Aims	99	31	130
	Funding (£)		23,832	23,832
Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	Aims	244	150	394
	Funding (£)	341,771	418,583	760,354
Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 1)	Aims	483	178	661
	Funding (£)	767,111	558,661	1,325,772
Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 2)	Aims	353	149	502
	Funding (£)	505,539	453,326	958,865
Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 3)	Aims	637	128	765
	Funding (£)	651,853	428,911	1,080,764
Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 1)	Aims	49	104	153
	Funding (£)	46,670	83,317	129,987
Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 2)	Aims	55	34	89
	Funding (£)	42,117	29,732	71,849
Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)	Aims	20	32	52
	Funding (£)	12,167	30,781	42,948

Learning Aim Title	Data	2005-06 (F05)	2006-07 (F01)	Grand total
Certificate in ESOL Subject Specialist	Aims	16	9	25
	Funding (£)	6,454	3,830	10,284
Diagnostic Test in ESOL, 3 guided learning hours	Aims	3349		3349
	Funding (£)	234,832		234,832
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 1)	Aims	94	87	181
	Funding (£)	305,438	334,668	640,106
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 2)	Aims	21	6	27
	Funding (£)	42,597	20,176	62,773
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 3)	Aims	6	27	33
	Funding (£)	24,953	100,385	125,338
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 1)	Aims	353	119	472
	Funding (£)	339,631	84,061	423,692
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 2)	Aims	157	129	286
	Funding (£)	121,923	132,736	254,659
Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)	Aims	67	76	143
	Funding (£)	54,002	46,892	100,894
Open College Network Basic ESOL Course, Entry Level	Aims	440	577	1017
	Funding (£)	229,552	382,367	611,919
Total Aims		6,539	1,898	8,437
Total Funding		3,774,322	3,168,148	6,942,470

The expectation is that next year's spending on ESOL will be broadly comparable to this year. The budget for the next five years will be dependent upon the comprehensive spending review after which all priorities will be re-assessed.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what he expects the fees to be for the range of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in 2007-08 between a programme of two hours per week for 30 weeks and a full-time programme of 450 programme guided learning hours. [124695]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* Since 2001, almost 2 million people have taken up the opportunity to improve their English language skills through the Skills for Life Strategy.

The fee for a learner taking a course in English for Speakers of Other Languages is an operational matter for the national Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with this information. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 March 2007:

I write in response to your recent question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, about the expected fees for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in 2007-08 between a programme of two hours per week for 30 weeks and a full-time programme of 450 programme guided learning hours (glh).

Guidance on assumed fee rates is set out in the "Funding Guidance for Further Education 2006/07", Annex A. In particular Table A2 gives the loadbanded assumed fee element for provision from 9glh to 1019glh per year.

For 2007/08 the assumed fee contribution will move to 37.5% from 32.5% (2006/07).

Set out below is the likely assumed fee rate for all qualifications of the stated glhs for 2007/08. The 2007/08 guidance is due to be published by April 2007 and there may be a slight variance in the figures once all the final calculations have been done:

		£
For 60 - 89 glh	Assumed fee contribution would be:	153
For 450 - 479 glh	Assumed fee contribution would be:	990

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 487W, on English for Speakers of Other Languages, if he will

publish the data to which he refers from the Learning and Skills Council's Individualised Learning Record disaggregated to the degree possible. [126484]

Phil Hope: The answer of 1 February referred to Learning and Skills Council (LSC) data which show the increase in demand for Skills for Life English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision.

LSC data show that between 2000/01 and 2004/05, enrolments onto basic skills learning aims increased as follows:

	Enrolments (Thousand)
2000/01	159,000
2001/02	302,000
2002/03	413,000
2003/04	488,000
2004/05	484,000
2005/06	[1]504,000

[1] Based on data up to data October 2006, both confirmed and estimated.

These data are not normally published as part of the Statistical First Release on the DfES website.

The current ESOL cohort do not all have the same learning needs as the original target cohort for Skills for Life ESOL. In order to deliver learning appropriate to the needs of both the settled community and those who need English for work in the UK, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has been asked to develop new ESOL for Work qualifications.

Entry to Employment Programme: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department provided to the E2E programme in Gloucestershire in 2006-07; what that figure represents per head of population; what the average figure per head of population is in England; and if he will make a statement. [129287]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* The E2E budget in Gloucestershire for 2006/07 is £2,377,931. This is based on an estimate of 827 young people starting in learning during the year. E2E funding is based on a single national weekly rate per place, with additional payments for achievement of qualifications and for progression into employment, learning or training. Because E2E programmes are developed to meet individual needs there are different lengths of stay and different achievements and progression. Based on the current average length of stay in learning of 19 weeks, and progression and achievement rates around 50 per cent., the average level of funding for E2E learners in Gloucestershire is £2,875. Length of stay and achievement/ progression rates in Gloucestershire are broadly in line with national figures, and as the funding rates are the same, the level of funding will also be broadly the same.

GCSE

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students achieved five GCSEs at grade C or above including English and mathematics in each year since 1997. [127919]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The information requested is shown in the table.

GCSE and equivalent attempts and achievements, 1996/97 to 2005/06[1, 2], England

	Number of pupils[3]	*Percentage who achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and Mathematics*
15-year-olds		
1996/97[4]	586,766	35.6
1997/98	575,210	37.0
1998/99	580,972	38.6
1999/2000	580,393	40.0
2000/01	603,318	40.7
2001/02	606,554	42.1
2002/03	622,122	41.9
2003/04[5]	643,560	42.6
2004/05	636,771	44.3
2005/06	648,942	45.3
Pupils at End Key Stage 4		
2004/05	633,414	44.9
2005/06	645,931	[5]45.8

[1] Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years.
[2] Figures for 2005/06 are revised from those published previously following checking with schools, all other figures are final.
[3] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year or from 2004/05 end of Key Stage 4 figures or the number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in that academic year.
[4] Percentages from 1996/97 include GCSEs and GNVQs.
[5] Percentages from 2003/04 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.

Headteachers: Pay

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the salary is of the head teacher in each academy. [127273]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information centrally on academy principals' salaries.

Independent Schools

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what formal consultation with stakeholders took place prior to the publication of the consultation document on the Definition of Full-Time Education in Independent Schools; in what form; and if he will make a statement. [111999]

Jim Knight: The consultation on the "Definition of Full Time Education in Independent Schools" has been undertaken in full adherence with the Cabinet Office's Code of Practice on Consultations. All major stakeholders, identified prior to the consultation, were sent a copy of the consultation on the day it launched and invited to respond. The consultation is available on the Department's website.

Information and Communications Technology: Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what areas in IT in the UK are expected to have skills shortages in *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years time. [129673]

Phil Hope: The IT sector is expected to grow by more than 20 per cent. in the next 10 years, representing more than 200,000 new jobs. By 2014 more than 1 million workers will be employed in the IT sector.

One third of employers report skills gaps in their current specialist IT work force. Demand will continue to grow most in high level IT skills. New entrants to the work force will need significantly higher levels of business, project, interpersonal and technical skills. The need to improve IT user skills among the general working population will also continue to grow. Regional employment forecasts show that the regional concentration of the IT industry across the UK is not expected to shift significantly. The largest share of the IT industry will remain in the South East and London.

The Sector Skills Council for the IT sector, e-skills UK, published the Sector Skills Agreement of IT Action Plans for England, Scotland and Wales during 2005, setting out how the various partners in the education and skills system will work together with the sector to meet the sector's future skills needs.

Languages: Education

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of teaching foreign languages to age *(a)* seven, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 14-years-olds. [127597]

Jim Knight: The Department has commissioned two pieces of research into language teaching and learning at key stage 2 (7 to 11). The first is looking at the national implementation of primary languages and the other at the impact the teaching of languages has on attainment across the primary curriculum. The first headline findings will be published in July 2007. We have also developed a two year training programme to increase the quality and consistency of language teaching at key stage 3, and have commissioned a two year research project into the provision and practice of language learning at key stage 3. The Dearing Review of languages, published on 12 March, recommended improving teaching through a range of CPD. We are currently considering how to implement his recommendations.

Literacy: Curriculum

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what flexibility teachers have to offer remedial reading teaching within the mandatory elements of the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [127736]

Jim Knight: The national curriculum sets out which subjects must be taught at each key stage. The knowledge, skills and understanding, and the prescribed content which must be covered, are set out in statutory programmes of study for each subject.

The national curriculum does not completely fill the school timetable at any key stage and provides teachers with the flexibility to include remedial teaching where required. This flexibility enables schools to satisfy the demands of the overarching curriculum inclusion statement which requires teachers to set suitable learning challenges for all pupils; to respond to diverse learning needs and to put in place strategies to overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment.

Literature: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on what basis the authors in the list of pre-20th century texts for the revised key stage three programme of study proposed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority were selected. [127329]

Jim Knight: The pre-20th century authors were selected as they have an enduring appeal that transcends the period in which they were written and have played a significant role in the development of literature in English. They continue to be read, studied and interpreted in print and on screen for contemporary audiences.

New Schools

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many new schools were built under the direct management of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities in each of the past 30 years. [116929]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills does not directly procure or manage the building of new schools.

We do not collect information on new schools built by local authorities, in support of our policies of devolving decision-making to the local level and minimising bureaucratic burden. But we estimate that since 1997, 800 new schools have been built around the country.

However, we have information on the numbers of new schools (including replacement schools) built in recent years through the private finance initiative, and in the academies programme. This information is provided in the table below. We will collect this information systematically in Building Schools for the Future and the primary capital programme.

Number of new schools completed in each year:

	PFI	*Academies*	*Total*
1999-2000	3	n/a	3
2000-01	5	n/a	5
2001-02	18	n/a	18
2002-03	30	n/a	30
2003-04	51	4	55
2004-05	23	5	28
2005-06	25	6	31
2006-07	32	7	39

Additionally, in the voluntary aided sector, the number of new schools built each year, listed by year of project approval is:

	Voluntary aided
2001-02	4
2002-03	17
2003-04	7
2004-05	0
2005-06	1
2006-07	0

Note:
These figures under-represent the number of new voluntary aided schools opened, as they do not include where a new school is open, but where all elements of construction are not yet completed. Nor do the figures include new voluntary aided schools approved in earlier years but completed in or after 2001-02, where the records are not readily accessible.

We have not searched for records on new schools going back to 1977 as this would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Parliamentary Questions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he will answer Question 106146, on departmental energy use, tabled by the hon. Member for Wealden on 23 November 2006.

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2070W.

Pupil Exclusions: City Academies

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were excluded from each academy in the last school year; and if he will make a statement. [127272]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

Academies [1]: Number and percentage of permanent exclusions 2004/05 Schools in England

		2004/05	
Establishment name	*Local authority name*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[2]*
Capital City Academy	Brent	11	1.21
City of London Academy (Southwark)	Southwark	3	0.83
Dixons City Academy	Bradford	[3]	[3]
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	Nottingham	11	0.70
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	Lewisham	[3]	[3]
Northampton Academy	Northamptonshire	9	0.72
Salford City Academy	Salford	6	n/a
Stockley Academy	Hillingdon	4	0.68
The Academy at Peckham	Southwark	10	0.93
The Business Academy Bexley	Bexley	7	0.51
The City Academy Bristol	Bristol City of	4	0.37
The King's Academy	Middlesbrough	7	0.67
Unity City Academy	Middlesbrough	6	0.53
West London Academy	Ealing	22	1.95

n/a = Not available
[1] Academies with one or more permanent exclusions during 2004/05.
[2] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in the school as at January 2005.
[3] 1 or 2 exclusions, so a rate based on 1 or 2 exclusions
Note:
These figures are as reported by schools and are unconfirmed.
Source:
School Census

Exclusions data are collected retrospectively. Information on exclusions during the 2005/06 school year is expected to be published in June 2007.

Exclusions in academies are high relative to national averages. However, academies are placing great emphasis on getting the basics right and improving behaviour in particular. Academies often inherit a large number of disruptive pupils and need to establish good behaviour in order to raise attainment. As the new ethos and behaviour policy are enforced in an academy's early days, the number of exclusions may rise, but it typically drops down as behaviour improves.

This phenomenon is not unique to academies—the same effect is often observed when a new head teacher transforms a struggling maintained school.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority derived the six groups within the personal, learning and thinking skills framework. [127321]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's (QCA) personal, learning and thinking skills framework was designed following extensive consultation. The QCA carried out an online survey with local authorities, teacher associations, sector skills councils, awarding bodies and partner organisations between 3 October and 2 December 2005. In addition, the QCA discussed the framework at over 40 meetings with partners and stakeholders during the same period. The QCA also carried out a separate specific consultation for young people.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) on what dates the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's Secondary

Curriculum Review External Committee has met since it was established; [127322]

(2) how the members of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Secondary Curriculum Review External Committee were appointed; and who was responsible for their appointment; [127328]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2077W, on the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, what the terms of reference are of the Secondary Curriculum Review External Committee; and who the members of the committee are. [127343]

Jim Knight: A number of representatives from government bodies, educational organisations, schools and other stakeholders were invited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to join its Secondary Curriculum Review External Committee. The QCA was responsible for the appointment of committee members.

The current committee members are:

Peter Walker, Secondary National Strategy

Keith Wheeldon, Ofsted

Mr. Hugh Baldry, The Training and Development Agency for Schools

Ms Jenny Jupe, The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

Ms Kathy Baker, General Teaching Council

Professor John White, Institute of Education

Dr. Gordon Stobart, Institute of Education

Ms Sue Kirkham, Field House

Mr. Steve Labedz, Admiral Lord Nelson School

Mr. Martin Buck, Lister Community School

Alison Mottram, Ashton on Mersey School

Mrs. Carol Penney, South and West Association of Leaders in Special Schools

Corri Van de Stege, The Learning and Skills Network

Yasmin Bevan, The National College for School Leadership

Julie Bramman, DfES

Tina Isaacs, QCA

Kate Moorse, QCA

Jeremy Tafler, QCA

John Brown, QCA

David Downes, QCA

The Committee's terms of reference are:

To bring an external perspective to the development of the key stage 3 curriculum and its assessment;

To help shape consultations with pupils, teachers, parents and other stakeholders;

To help shape trialling and piloting aspects of the proposed curriculum and assessment changes; and

To anticipate, and seek solutions for, possible implementation issues.

The committee met on 17 May 2005, 21 September 2005, 24 November 2005, 6 February 2006, 21 April 2006, 2 November 2006 and 6 December 2006.

School Sponsorship

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what representations he has received from organisations based primarily outside the United Kingdom about sponsoring *(a)* an academy and *(b)* a foundation school with a foundation; [111814]

(2) when he will reply to question 111814, on academy and foundation schools, tabled by the hon. Member for Brent East on 23 January 2007. [128738]

Jim Knight: Officials in the Department for Education and Skills had preliminary discussions with two companies based primarily outside the United Kingdom back in 2005. They were keen to sponsor several academies in England but have since decided to withdraw from the proposal.

Officials in the Department for Education and Skills have discussed supporting foundation schools with foundations (trust schools) with a wide range of organisations, including some based primarily outside the United Kingdom. Microsoft Ltd are confirmed as a partner for one of the trust school pathfinder schools. However the Department does not hold a comprehensive list of every organisation that has expressed an early interest or asked for information about forming a foundation to support a school.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of pupils were admitted to their first preference school in the last year for which figures are available for all secondary schools. [126114]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which admissions authorities include ballot by lottery amongst their oversubscription criteria, in each local authority; [127384]

(2) which admissions authorities allocate places *(a)* primarily by lottery and *(b)* by lottery within fair banding, in each local authority; [127385]

(3) which admissions authorities include catchment area amongst their oversubscription criteria, broken down by local authority; [127386]

(4) which admissions authorities allocate places primarily by catchment area, broken down by local authority; [127387]

(5) how many children living within a catchment area for a school which they listed as first preference did not get a place in that school in the latest period for which figures are available, in each local authority; [127388]

(6) how many children living within a catchment area for a school to which they applied did not get a place in that school in the latest period for which figures are available, in each local authority. [127393]

Jim Knight: None of the data requested is collected centrally, but they may be available from individual local authorities.

The admissions framework is flexible enough to allow admission authorities to take account of local circumstances. They may set whatever admission criteria they consider appropriate as long as they are in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

Random allocation, use of catchment areas, or banding are all acceptable means of determining which children should be given priority for admission to oversubscribed schools. They can also be used together—for example, by using random allocation within a defined catchment area—or alongside other criteria—for example, giving priority to siblings.

Schools: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the dedicated schools grant was for the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [119889]

Jim Knight: The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was first introduced in 2006-07; the funding that Bexley received in 2006-07 and the indicative allocation for 2007-08 are detailed in the following table:

£

	2006-07 (final)	*2007-08 (indicative)*
DSG guaranteed unit of funding per pupil	3,719.15	137.002
Total DSG funding	3,969.90	145.552

Notes:
1. Figures are on a cash basis
2. Prior to the introduction of the DSG, funding for nursery, primary and secondary school aged pupils was through the Education Funding System (EFS) which was part of the local government finance settlement. EFS was based on what an authority needed to fund education whereas DSG is largely based on an authority's previous spending. EFS also included funding for an authority's central functions, this is still part of DCLG's local government finance settlement rather than DSG. For those reasons EFS and DSG are not comparable.
3. The DSG does not represent the totality of education funding; there are other grants that support the schools budget which have not been included in the table.

Source:
http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=9405

Schools: Construction

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1397-98W, on schools: construction, how many schools have completed the BREEAM schools assessment process; and what rating they have achieved. [129644]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 March 2007]*: The numbers of schools that have registered for BREEAM Schools certification now stands at 470 up from 347 in December 2006. Of these, 459 are currently undergoing assessment.

11 schools have now completed the assessment process; four in England and seven in Scotland. In England, two schools achieved a "good" rating, one a "pass" rating, and one a "very good" rating. All seven schools in Scotland achieved a "good" rating.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of violence towards *(a)* staff and *(b)* pupils were reported in (i) the 10 per cent. of primary schools with the (A) lowest and (B) highest levels of free school meal entitlement and (ii) the 10 per cent. of secondary schools with the (A) lowest and (B) highest levels of free school meal entitlement in 2006. [126527]

Jim Knight: The number of incidents of violence towards staff and pupils is not collected centrally.

From the academic year 2003/04, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'physical assault against an adult' and 'physical assault against a pupil'.

The table provides a breakdown of the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions during 2004/05 from maintained primary and secondary schools for physical assault against a pupil or an adult in schools with the highest and lowest proportion of school population known to be eligible for free school meals.

Exclusions data are collected retrospectively. The latest available exclusions data relate to the 2004/05 academic year. Information on exclusions during the 2005/06 academic year is expected to be released in June 2007.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against a pupil or an adult[2]—2004/05 England

	Maintained primary schools			*Maintained secondary schools*		
	10 per cent. of schools with:			*10 per cent. of schools with:*		
	lowest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	*highest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]*	*All schools*	*lowest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]*	*highest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]*	*All schools*
Number of schools[4]	1,766	1,764	17,642	339	339	3,367
Exclusions for physical assault against an adult						
Number of fixed period exclusions	120	1,410	5,960	210	1,700	9,490
Fixed period exclusions per 1,000 pupils	0.40	2.89	1.42	0.59	5.79	2.86
Number of permanent exclusions[5]	[..]	70	280	10	160	870
Permanent exclusions per 1,000 pupils	[..]	0.15	0.07	0.04	0.56	0.28

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against a pupil or an adult[2]—2004/05 England

	Maintained primary schools			Maintained secondary schools		
	10 per cent. of schools with:			10 per cent. of schools with:		
	lowest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	highest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	All schools	lowest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	highest percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	All schools
Exclusions for physical assault against a pupil						
Number of fixed period exclusions	210	2,810	11,950	2,460	7,250	65,790
Fixed period exclusions per 1,000 pupils	0.70	5.74	2.84	7.04	24.70	19.84
Number of permanent exclusions[5]	[5]—	50	240	40	220	1,460
Permanent exclusions per 1,000 pupils	[5]—	0.11	0.06	0.10	0.76	0.44

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Published statistics (SFR 24/2006) on permanent exclusions have been derived from data collected via the school census. These data did not include the reason for exclusion. Figures shown in this table relating to permanent exclusions have been derived from Termly Exclusions Survey returns and will not match published figures on permanent exclusions.
[3] Information on the proportion of school population known to be eligible for free school meals has been derived from 2005 school census returns. Schools have been ranked based on the percentage of full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15 who are known to be eligible for free school meals.
[4] Schools were sorted by the proportion of school population known to be eligible for free school meals and size of school population. Three primary schools had the same free school meal percentage and school population at the end of the lowest 10 per cent. band and have all been included in this analysis (pushing the band size to 1,766 instead of 1,764).
[5] One or two exclusions, or a rate based on one or two exclusions.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Schools: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local authorities agreed increases in centrally retained expenditure from their school budgets above the central expenditure limit in 2006-07. [127080]

Jim Knight: The following list details the 90 local authorities whose budget for central expenditure for 2006-07 was greater than the allowed limit. This is taken from the local authority benchmarking tables which can be found on TeacherNet at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=73

The tables were published on 31 August 2006 and copies of the data have been placed in the House Library.

Two technical changes to the school funding system for 2006-07 contributed to the total of 90 authorities who breached the central expenditure limit: local authorities were allowed to retain centrally funding which had in 2005-06 been distributed through teachers' pay grant; and school specific contingency within the individual schools budget (ISB) was abolished, leading to an increase in the amount of contingency held within the central budget for some local authorities. We thought it appropriate that local schools forums should approve these arrangements where they led to a breach of the central expenditure limit.

Barnsley
Bath and North East Somerset
Bedfordshire
Birmingham
Bolton
Bournemouth
Bracknell Forest
Bradford
Brent
Bromley
Calderdale
City of Bristol
City of Kingston Upon Hull
Coventry
Croydon
Cumbria
Darlington
Derby
Derbyshire
Doncaster
Dorset
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Enfield
Essex
Gloucestershire
Greenwich
Hackney
Halton
Hampshire
Haringey
Hartlepool
Havering
Hertfordshire
Hounslow
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kent
Kirklees
Knowsley

Lancashire
Leeds
Leicester
Leicestershire
Lewisham
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Medway
Merton
Middlesbrough
Newcastle upon Tyne
Norfolk
North Lincolnshire
North Yorkshire
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
Nottingham
Peterborough
Portsmouth
Reading
Richmond upon Thames
Rochdale
Rotherham
Rutland
Salford
Sandwell
Sheffield
Slough
Somerset
South Tyneside
Southwark
St. Helens
Staffordshire
Stoke-on-Trent
Suffolk
Sunderland
Surrey
Telford and Wrekin
Tower Hamlets
Trafford
Warrington
West Berkshire
West Sussex
Westminster
Wigan
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Wolverhampton
York

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what his Department's policy is on the installation of sprinkler systems in existing school buildings; [127196]

"(2) what his Department's policy is on the installation of sprinkler systems in school buildings being *(a)* renovated and *(b)* newly built. [127197]

Jim Knight: On 1 March I was able to announce in the House our new policy on sprinklers. It is now our expectation that all new schools will have fire sprinklers installed. However, we do not intend to make this a compulsory measure as sufficient regulations are already in place covering life safety and we do not need to legislate further for property protection. There may be cases where local authorities or other promoters of schools consider that sprinklers are not needed. They will need to be able to demonstrate that such schools are low risk and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money. To do this they should use our new risk assessment and cost benefit analysis tools that I launched on 26 February at a parliamentary seminar.

Where a school is undergoing extensive renovation, local authorities and other promoters should use the same tools to determine levels of risk and value for money, and therefore whether sprinklers are needed or should be considered. We are not suggesting that existing school buildings that are not undergoing refurbishment should have sprinklers installed. However, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, implemented in October 2006, requires all schools to carry our annual fire risk assessments. Where risks are identified, measures must be taken to reduce or remove them.

Schools: Greenwich

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department has taken to improve the performance of schools in the London borough of Greenwich since 1997. [126687]

Jim Knight: Greenwich has seen a significant overall rise in standards across all Key Stages since 1997. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching the target level 4+ has risen by 24 percentage points to 74 per cent. in English in 2006 and by 20 percentage points to 71 per cent. in mathematics. The proportion of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent has improved by 12 percentage points to 43 per cent. in 2006. This represents faster improvement than the national average.

We want to see standards in Greenwich improve further and the Government's London Challenge programme and the National Strategies in particular are working closely with the borough and its schools to achieve this.

London Challenge support since 2003 includes:

Direct support for five of Greenwich's secondary schools through the Keys to Success programme. This has provided schools with access to expert advice from a London Challenge Adviser who has helped them to prioritise areas for improvement and put together bespoke improvement packages;

Consultancy support for English, maths and science in secondary schools across the borough;

Inclusion in the Science Challenge to improve the standard of science in target secondary schools;

Inclusion in the English and Maths Challenge to improve standards in English and maths in target secondary schools;

Inclusion in the Primary London Challenge which aims to raise standards in traditionally underperforming primary schools.

Support for the local authority to increase capacity in the Secondary School Improvement Team

Opportunities for Greenwich teachers to qualify as Chartered London Teachers and support for housing costs.

Consultant Leaders working to support school leadership.

KS2-3 Transition projects

Opportunities for Greenwich students to gain a variety of rich experiences out of school.

ICT projects

Schools: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* supported research into the impact on governing bodies and their chair of a school being put into special measures. [124453]

Jim Knight: The Department has not commissioned or supported research into the impact on governing bodies of a school that is placed in special measures. For such a school the local authority has a duty to prepare a statement of action within 10 working days and we expect urgent action to be taken by the authority, governing body and others involved to improve provision at the school as soon as possible.

This will inevitably involve a good deal of hard work, but a well organised governing body can spread its workload by setting up committees to consider various matters on, for example, curriculum, finance and management issues. Support from the local authority can include the appointment of additional members to strengthen the governing body.

Where the Ofsted inspection finds that the governors are not discharging their responsibilities adequately and this failure contributes to the finding that the school requires special measures then the local authority should include in its statement of action how it will address governance issues at the school.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will assess the extent to which schools teach specific factual content above that which is proposed in the programmes of study included in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority secondary curriculum review. [127317]

Jim Knight: We have no plans to make such an assessment.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the consultation launched by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on 5 February on the secondary curriculum *(a)* relates solely to the revised key stage 3 programme of study and *(b)* includes (i) the revised key stage 4 programmes of study and (ii) the content of the sections entitled curriculum lenses, Organising the curriculum and curriculum dimensions on the secondary curriculum review website. [127319]

Jim Knight: The statutory consultation launched by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on 5 February relates to proposed changes to the statutory programmes of study and level descriptions at key stages 3 and 4.

QCA has also invited separate comment on supporting materials to accompany the proposed programmes of study, including the content of the sections entitled curriculum lenses, Organising the curriculum and curriculum dimensions.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority considered the content of maths curricula in use in *(a)* Japan, *(b)* South Korea, *(c)* Flemish-Belgium, *(d)* Singapore, *(e)* Chinese Tapei and *(f)* Hong Kong when designing the new programme of study in mathematics as part of the secondary curriculum review. [127326]

Jim Knight: Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) curriculum advisers keep up to date with developments in other countries and with international studies and surveys, especially from countries where achievement in mathematics is higher than that in the United Kingdom. While the QCA has not drawn from the curriculum of any specific country when designing the new programmes of study for mathematics, the background knowledge gained was used in its preparation.

Secondary Schools

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of mainstream maintained secondary schools set lessons in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English and *(c)* science. [129640]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* We have figures for the number of lessons as opposed to the number of schools. In its 2002/03 school inspection cycle, Ofsted noted that of all the lessons which inspectors observed:

5,567 of mathematics lessons were set (86 per cent.)

3,681 English lessons were set (51 per cent.)

4,456 science lessons were set (70 per cent.)

We want schools to provide a tailored education for every child and believe that the effective use of pupil grouping plays an important part in supporting this aim. We have been encouraging schools to use setting and other forms of pupil grouping since 1997. However, it will continue to be for schools to decide how and when to group and set pupils. That is the only practical approach.

Students: Part-Time Employment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the numbers of students undertaking full-time higher education courses who have part-time jobs. [127771]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* The Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004/05, published on the 30 March 2006, is a comprehensive study on students' income, expenditure, borrowing and debt. It showed that 56 per cent. of all full-time undergraduate students undertook paid work at some

time during the academic year—either during term time, during the short vacations or both. For those undertaking such work earnings were on average £3,250 (after tax). The Department plans to repeat the survey in the 2007/08 academic year.

The Government provide a generous package of financial support for students. In 2006/07 no eligible full-time student has to find the funding for their fees before or while they are studying; the loans for living costs have been increased above inflation; and new maintenance grants of up to £2,700 are benefiting up to half the full-time students. Students generally ought not to need to work to meet their essential living costs. Nonetheless we recognise that many students undertake paid work and, providing excessive hours are not worked to the detriment of their academic studies, students can gain useful skills as well as supplementing their income.

Teachers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of newly qualified *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school teachers who had not taken up full-time teaching posts one year after qualification in each of the last five years in Leeds. [129372]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The following tables provide the number and percentage of final year trainees from Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in Leeds gaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) award by academic year who have not commenced a full-time teaching post, in either the maintained or independent sector, six months after completing their course in the academic years, 2002/03 to 2004/05:

Final year primary school trainees from HEI providers in Leeds[1] gaining QTS award by academic year that have not commenced a full-time teaching post six months after completing their course

			ITT trainees gaining QTS with unknown destinations	
	Number of ITT trainees gaining QTS known not to be in full-time teaching post	Percentage of all QTS award trainees not in full-time teaching posts	Number	Percentage
2002/03	70	16	80	21
2003/04[2]	90	26	60	17
2004/05	100	26	40	11

[1] HEIs in Leeds include the University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University and Trinity and All Saints College.
[2] Leeds Metropolitan University is not included in 2003/04 figures because of inconsistencies in data collection and recording from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey.
Source:
The TDA performance profiles.

Final year secondary school trainees from HEI providers in Leeds gaining QTS award by academic year that have not commenced a full-time teaching post six months after completing their course

			ITT trainees gaining QTS with unknown destinations	
	Number of ITT trainees gaining QTS known not to be in full-time teaching post	Percentage of all QTS award trainees not in full-time teaching posts	Number	Percentage
2002/03	60	10	100	16
2003/04[1]	90	15	110	20
2004/05	90	14	110	17

[1] Leeds Metropolitan University is not included in 2003/04 figures because of inconsistencies in data collection and recording from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey.
Notes:
1. Figures for final year trainees in Leeds include HEIs only, but exclude SCITT, OU and employment based routes. This is because the breakdown of teaching posts into full-time or part-time posts is only available for HEIs.
2. HEIs in Leeds include the University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University and Trinity and All Saints College.
3. Trainees gaining QTS award and classified as known not to be in a full-time teaching post six months after completing their course include trainees who are in part-time teaching posts, seeking a teaching post and not seeking a teaching post.
4. These figures show the number of final year trainees from HEIs in Leeds gaining QTS award who have not commenced a full-time teaching post six months after completing their course. They do not show the number of NQTs living in Leeds who are not in full-time teaching posts. Also those who are in full-time teaching posts may not necessarily be teaching in Leeds. Not all qualifying teachers will seek employment in teaching immediately; some may travel, take further study or pursue other interests before doing so.
5. Figures for 2003/04 have been affected by inconsistencies in data collection and recording for Leeds Metropolitan University from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. Therefore no data from Leeds Metropolitan University are included for 2003/04 figures.
6. Data on destinations of final year trainees for 2005/06 are not yet available.
7. The breakdown of the type of teaching posts which trainees enter (i.e. full-time or part-time) is only available for trainees who were awarded QTS in 2002/03 onwards.
8. Percentage calculation includes response whose employment status was unknown.
9. Figures are individually rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
The TDA performance profiles.

Teachers: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the total cost was of teacher redundancy payments in *(a)* community schools, *(b)* foundation schools, *(c)* voluntary-aided schools, *(d)* voluntary controlled schools, *(e)* academies and *(f)* city technology colleges in each year from 1997 to 2007; [127552]

(2) how many and what percentage of *(a)* all teachers and *(b)* teachers in (i) community schools, (ii) voluntary-aided schools, (iii) voluntary controlled schools, (iv) foundation schools, (v) academies and (vi) city technology colleges (A) took voluntary redundancy payments, (B) took early retirement, (C) retired and (D) were dismissed in each year between 1997 and 2007. [127553]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of teachers who took redundancy payments, the amount of these payments and the number of teachers who were subject to dismissal is not collected centrally.

The following table provides the number of teachers who retired in each year from 1997/98 to 2005/06 in the maintained schools sector, city technology colleges and academies by type of retirement.

The figures include teachers who may have left teaching service some years before being awarded retirement benefits. The year given is that of the award. Early retirements include premature and actuarially reduced benefit retirements but exclude ill-health retirements which are listed separately. This information is not available broken down for the other school types requested. 2005/06 is the latest information available.

Retirements from the maintained schools sector, city technology colleges and academies[1]: Type of award by sex and year of award, 1997-98 to 2005-06, England

Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	*Early retirements[2]*	*Age*	*Ill-health[3]*	*Total*
1997-98[4]				
Maintained schools	11,370	3,580	3,260	18,210
City technology colleges	10	0	[6]	10
Academies	—	—	—	—
1998-99[4]				
Maintained schools	2,380	3,830	2,290	8,490
City technology colleges	0	[6]	[6]	10
Academies	—	—	—	—
1999-2000[4]				
Maintained schools	2,650	4,270	2,320	9,240
City technology colleges	[6]	[6]	[6]	10
Academies	—	—	—	—
2000-01[4]				
Maintained schools	3,160	4,230	2,630	10,020
City technology colleges	0	[6]	[6]	[6]
Academies	—	—	—	—
2001-02[4]				
Maintained Schools	3,480	4,420	2,380	10,270
City technology Colleges	[6]	[6]	0	10
Academies	—	—	—	—
2002-03[4]				
Maintained schools	3,960	4,960	2,030	10,950
City technology colleges	10	[6]	[6]	10
Academies	—	—	—	—
2003-04[4,5]				
Maintained schools	4,930	5,530	1,870	12,330
City technology colleges	10	[6]	0	10
Academies	[6]	[6]	[6]	10
2004-05[4,5]				
Maintained schools	6,060	6,430	1,580	14,060
City technology colleges	10	10	[6]	10
Academies	10	[6]	[6]	10

Retirements from the maintained schools sector, city technology colleges and academies[1]: Type of award by sex and year of award, 1997-98 to 2005-06, England

Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	Early retirements[2]	Age	Ill-health[3]	Total
2005-06[4,5]				
Maintained schools	6,640	6,180	1,470	14,300
City technology colleges	[6]	10	[6]	10
Academies	20	10	[6]	30

[1] Academies were not introduced until 2003-04.
[2] The effect of the change in the Teachers' Pension Scheme as from 31 August 1997 was that many more teachers took early retirement in 1997 than in previous years. Premature includes actuarially reduced benefit retirements from 2000-01.
[3] Changes in the statutory regulations governing ill-health retirement came into force on 1 April 1997. To qualify for ill-health retirement benefits a teacher must now be regarded as permanently unfit to teach.
[4] All years are subject to slight revision due to the addition of retrospective awards and suspension of pension benefits where teachers return to service.
[5] 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are provisional estimates.
[6] Nil or negligible.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Pensioner Statistical System (PENSTATS)

Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1026W, on teaching methods, what the size was of the effect on pupils' learning which was found by the research into the effectiveness of drawing connections between different subjects and areas; and whether the effect was statistically significant. [125263]

Jim Knight: Research suggesting that drawing connections between different subjects and areas of the curriculum is an effective approach which impacts on pupils' learning is part of a wider body of research work into the principles of effective teaching. An overall effect size for this approach is not currently available.

For example, Ellis et al. (1996) conducted a research review to determine the principles of effective teaching. Ten principles were developed from the evidence base, of which one was teaching that highlights the similarities between topics and curriculum subjects. Askew et al. (1997) found that highly effective teachers of numeracy were those who, among other things, made connections between different areas of maths and different ideas in the same area of maths. Hall and Harding (2003) found that effective literacy teachers balanced direct teaching of basic literacy skills with wider, more contextually-grounded literacy activities, often linked with other curriculum areas.

The full references are:

Askew, M., Brown, M., Rhodes, V., Wiliam, D. and Johnson, D. (1997). "Effective teachers of numeracy". Final report. London: King's College London.

Ellis, E.S., Worthington., L. A. and Larkin, M.J. (1996) "Research synthesis on effective teaching principles and the design of quality tools". Worthington National Center to Improve the Tools of Educators.

Hall, K. and Harding, A. (2003) A systematic review of effective literacy teaching in the 4 to 14 age range of mainstream schooling. In: "Research Evidence in Education Library". London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education.

Truancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what definition his Department uses of truancy; [129642]

(2) what targets his Department has for reducing truancy. [129643]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* Truancy is generally considered to be unjustified absence from school, usually without parental knowledge or consent.

The Department does not set targets for reducing truancy because we are concerned about all forms of problem absence, including parentally condoned or encouraged absence, and because there is no satisfactory direct measure of truancy. Unauthorised absence is often taken to be a proxy for truancy, but it is an imperfect measure because it also includes lateness, some term time holidays and absence which parents have not yet explained. It is also well known that unauthorised absence tends to rise when schools take a tougher line on absence generally, as it has done in recent years, without necessarily reflecting any underlying increase in truancy.

That is why the Department has moved away from focusing narrowly on rates of unauthorised absence. We are now focusing our efforts on reducing persistent absence, including persistent truancy, in schools where this problem is most acute and where a small minority of pupils miss significant amounts of their schooling. This is proving highly effective. Last year, our targeted challenge and support in 198 secondary schools helped to reduce the number of pupils in those schools with high levels of unauthorised absence by 27 per cent. to reduce the average rate of absence in those schools by 0.63 percentage points and the average rate of unauthorised absence by 0.89 percentage points.

Building on that success, we are now focusing on providing challenge and support to 436 secondary schools with high levels of persistent absence.

Volunteering: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been raised from

private sector supporters to assist in meeting the recommendations of the Russell Commission on Youth Volunteering. [128267]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

The independent charity v has, to date, received pledges of over £20 million in match fund projects through partnership with the private sector with £7.5 million matched on a pound-for-pound basis. The remaining pledges will be matched once suitable projects are identified and established. The match fund projects have created over 43,000 volunteering opportunities.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Malik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the re-offending rate is for individuals with an anti-social behaviour order in *(a)* Dewsbury constituency and *(b)* England and Wales. [121083]

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of individuals made subject to an anti-social behaviour order have since been convicted of a criminal offence. [121854]

Mr. McNulty: ASBOs are civil orders and not an offender management tool so the information is not collected centrally.

Numbers of ASBOs proved in court to have been breached are monitored centrally and these numbers together with breach rates are shown in the following table.

Table BN2 (CJS area): ASBOs issued from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005 that were breached at least once by end 2005

	ASBOs issued		
CJS area	*Total*	*Of which: breached*[1]	*Percentage breached*
Avon and Somerset	213	103	48
Bedfordshire	82	32	39
Cambridgeshire	96	34	35
Cheshire	208	90	43
Cleveland	115	74	64
Cumbria	115	68	59
Derbyshire	125	51	41
Devon and Cornwall	177	53	30
Dorset	77	51	66
Durham	96	71	74
Essex	149	81	54
Gloucestershire	68	41	60
Greater London	1,163	463	40
Greater Manchester	1,227	686	56
Hampshire	272	133	49
Hertfordshire	145	54	37
Humberside	236	100	42
Kent	159	22	14
Lancashire	357	176	49
Leicestershire	120	59	49
Lincolnshire	43	21	49
Merseyside	300	136	45
Norfolk	117	45	38
Northamptonshire	84	9	11
Northumbria	302	131	43
North Yorkshire	91	41	45
Nottinghamshire	255	109	43
South Yorkshire	245	132	54
Staffordshire	170	67	39
Suffolk	165	65	39
Surrey	110	48	44
Sussex	245	121	49
Thames Valley	162	70	43
Warwickshire	87	48	55
West Mercia	231	103	45
West Midlands	776	373	48
West Yorkshire	692	384	55
Wiltshire	52	25	48
Dyfed Powys	35	16	46
Gwent	72	46	64
North Wales	168	77	46
South Wales	147	59	40
Total England and Wales	9,749	4,568	47

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table in the area of issue.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Category D Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders are in category D prisons in the UK, broken down by offence for which they were convicted. [125873]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of offenders held in open prisons in England and Wales as at 31 January 2007 can be found in the following table.

Offence group	*Number*
Violence against the person	1,162
Sexual offences	66
Robbery	411
Burglary	363
Theft and handling	235
Fraud and forgery	315
Drug offences	1,123
Motoring offences	123
Other offences	320
Offence not recorded	18
Total	4,136

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Passports: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where he plans to locate passport interview centres in Cumbria. [127351]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 13 March 2007]*: IPS plans to open an interview office in Carlisle and Kendal. A full list of the 69 proposed interview offices is available in the Library.

Passports: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport applications were processed in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; how many of those applications were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused; and what the average time taken to process passport applications in Northern Ireland was over this period. [123510]

Joan Ryan: IPS have a single office in Northern Ireland, located in Belfast. This office processes applications for a catchment area which includes areas of the UK outside of Northern Ireland. Therefore the figures provided relate to the number of applications processed in Northern Ireland but do not represent the number of applications made by residents of Northern Ireland.

Applications processed can have three outcomes:

Passed for issue

The application was successful and approval was given for a passport to be issued.

Withdrawn

The application for a passport was withdrawn prior to a final decision being made.

Failed

The application failed and the applicant was not entitled to a passport.

Table 1 displays the total number of passports processed within the Belfast office, broken down into the outcomes of passed for issue, withdrawn and failed.

Table 1: Belfast passport application outcomes

	Passed for issue	Withdrawn	Failed	Total
2002	276,567	1,555	32	278,154
2003	233,857	1,353	197	235,407
2004	297,802	1,611	236	299,649
2005	361,204	1,924	193	363,321
2006	354,340	2,350	255	356,945

When processing passport applications IPS do not monitor the time taken to process applications which have errors or queries raised while being processed. These queries create a need for additional checks to take place and extend processing time due to requesting further information from the customer. For straightforward applications, those measured by the publicised 10 working day turnaround target, table 2 identifies the average turnaround time in days for the Belfast office.

Table 2: Belfast average turnaround in days for straight forward

	Average days
2002	4.4
2003	4.2
2004	4.7
2005	4.4
2006	5.5

Police Custody

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were held in custody suites in each year since 2000. [123982]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisoners have been held in police cells during 2002, 2006 and 2007.

Between 11 July and 20 December 2002 prisoners were held in police cells under Operation Safeguard on a total of 28,650 occasions.

Between 12 October and 22 December 2006 police custody under Operation Safeguard was used on 4,617 occasions.

Operation Safeguard was reactivated on 22 January 2007. Between 22 January and 9 March it was used on 4,861 occasions.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals in UK prisons are from *(a)* outside the EU and *(b)* within the EU; what categories of offences they have committed; what estimate he has made of the number to be deported once they leave prison; and what previous offences they had committed before entering the UK. [125862]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At the end of December 2006 there were *(a)* 8,904 foreign national prisoners from outside the European Union and *(b)* 2,290 foreign national prisoners from within the European Union detained in prison establishments in England and Wales. Information on the offence groups for the immediate custodial sentenced population of prisoners within prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality group can be found within the following table.

All foreign nationals in custody have their sentences assessed in line with the guidance issued to IND and prisons on deportation matters. Those who meet the set criteria will be considered for deportation.

Information about crimes committed by foreign nationals before they entered the UK is not routinely collected by the police. Requests for such information are made at the discretion of the investigating police force depending on operational need.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prison population[1] within England and Wales at 31 December 2006 by UK national, EU[2] and non-EU foreign national and offence group

	Unrecorded and other	United Kingdom	Non-EU	EU (non-UK)	Total
Violence against the person	42	15,507	1,007	317	16,872
Sexual offences	14	6,228	589	163	6,994
Robbery	11	7,915	429	167	8,522
Burglary	17	7,678	96	149	7,940
Theft and handling	9	3,258	154	108	3,529
Fraud and forgery	18	838	817	66	1,739
Drug offences	28	8,034	2,119	499	10,680
Motoring offences	8	1,389	74	47	1,518
Other offences	13	5,102	405	169	5,690
Offence not recorded	2	319	22	2	345
All	161	56,268	5,711	1,687	63,828

[1] Prison population under immediate custodial sentence shown.
[2] European Union as at 31 December 2006 did not yet include Bulgaria and Romania who joined on 1 January 2007

Prisons: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what facilities Muslim worshippers are offered in prisons; and what the associated costs of such facilities were in each year since 2001. [127950]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service policy is to enable those prisoners who wish, to practise their religion. The Prison Service Performance Standard on Religion (number 51) and the Prison Service Order on Religion (4550) sets out the more detailed policy and includes specific information on the provision necessary for the practice of the main world faiths, including Islam. Copies of Prison Service Orders are kept in the House Library and both Prison Service Orders and Performance Standards are also published on the Prison Service website (www.hmprisons.gov.uk). The requested information on costs is not available.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which prisons employ an Imam; and how much each is paid. [127536]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service establishments that currently employ Muslim chaplains are detailed in the following list. Other establishments will use Muslim chaplains on a fee-paid basis. Chaplains in the public sector Prison Service are paid in two pay-bands with pay (excluding allowances) ranging from £19,680 to £35,799. Each private contractor has different rates of pay within the range £25,000 to £38,000.

Prisons in England and Wales directly employing Muslim chaplains

Altcourse
Aylesbury
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Brixton
Bronzefield
Buckley Hall
Bullingdon
Cardiff
Channings Wood[1]
Coldingley
Doncaster
Dovegate
Dover
Elmley[1]
Featherstone
Feltham
Forest Bank
Frankland
Full Sutton
Highpoint
Hindley
Leicester
Lincoln
Lindholme
Liverpool
Lowdham Grange
Manchester
Moorland
Nottingham
Pentonville
Peterborough
Portland[1]
Reading
Risley
Rye Hill
Standford Hill[1]
Swaleside
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
The Verne[1]
Thorn Cross
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Whitemoor
Wolds
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs

[1] Muslim chaplain covers more than one establishment.

Safer Stronger Communities Fund

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the projected funding allocation for the Safer Stronger Communities Fund is in each of the next two financial years. [126423]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund forms part of the core funding for local area agreements in England, wherever they have been agreed. In 2007-08 this will include Home Office funding that was previously identified as: Building Safer Communities Fund; Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator Grant; Drug Strategy Partnership Support Grant; Anti-Social Behaviour Action Areas and Trailblazer. The detail of the allocations for 2007-08 will be announced shortly.

Sexual Offences

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders are subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements. [128216]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All offenders who are subject to the notification requirements placed on sex offenders (registered sex offenders) are also subject to the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Since 2002, the number of registered sex offenders has been published in the MAPPA Annual Report for each area of England and Wales. In the 2005-06 reports, the latest year of publication, 29,976 registered sex offenders were shown as living in the community across England and Wales as at 31 March 2006. The reports are available in the House Libraries and on the internet at:

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

Young Offenders: Secure Accommodation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum population capacity is of each *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution; what the current population is of each; and if he will make a statement. [126021]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* The information requested is set out in the following table.

Operation capacity of under-18 custodial establishments and occupancy as at 2 March 2007

Establishment	*Operational capacity*[1]	*Custodial population at 2 March 2007*
Ashfield YOI	400	330
Brinsford YOI	224	155
Castington YOI	168	149
Cookham Wood YOI	17	6
Down view YOI	16	11
Eastwood Park YOI	16	11
Feltham YOI	240	219
Foston Hall YOI	16	11
Hindley YOI	192	134
Huntercombe YOI	360	286
Lancaster Farms YOI	250	227
New Hall YOI	26	20
Parc YOI	64	25
Stoke Heath YOI	202	192
Thorn Cross YOI	70	29
Warren Hill YOI	222	198
Werrington YOI	160	130
Wetherby YOI	360	271
Hassockfield STC	58	54
Medway STC	76	65
Oakhill STC	80	52
Rainsbrook STC	87	83
Aldine SCH	5	5
Atkinson Unit SCH	10	6
Aycliffe SCH	30	29
Barton Moss SCH	20	20
Clayfields House SCH	12	12
Dyson House SCH	16	13
East Moor SCH	34	24
Hillside SCH	14	11
Kyloe House SCH	3	1
Lincolnshire SCH	7	7
Orchard Lodge SCH	18	18
Red Bank SCH	28	26
Sutton Place SCH	8	7
Swanwick Lodge SCH	10	9
Vinney Green SCH	20	18
	3,539	2,864

[1] This indicates general capacity. Actual availability may differ from day to day, for example because rooms have been damaged.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Departments: BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 630W, on Departments: BAE Systems, if he will request the permission of the two individuals to list the details on his Department's security pass system. [129509]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department will make contact with BAE Systems with this request. Accordingly I will reply directly to my hon. Friend the Member for North Norfolk in due course and place a copy of the letter in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many work permits were applied for by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [127712]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry and its agencies do not apply for work permits. However, it is part of our standard pre-employment checks at recruitment stage to ensure that staff applying to be employed within the Department

and its agencies have a work permit, where appropriate, before they are employed. Information on how many staff may have work permits is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of companies that manufacture, import or re-brand electrical and electronic equipment have registered with a producer compliance scheme in accordance with Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment regulations; and if he will make a statement. [128788]

Malcolm Wicks: Producer compliance schemes have until 31 March 2007 to register their members with the appropriate environment agency. Figures are therefore not yet available on how many companies have joined producer compliance schemes.

Members: Correspondence

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to answer Question 124806, on ministerial visits, tabled by the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton on 2 March 2007. [129189]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* I answered the hon. Member's question on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 625W.

Patents: EC Law

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the use of English in the development of a common community patent. [129544]

Malcolm Wicks: UK Ministers and officials have had ongoing discussions with the European Commission and others, following the consultation launched by the Commission in 2006 on the Community Patent and other initiatives to improve the European patent system. The UK is committed to a business-friendly Community patent which imposes minimal burdens due to translations. A Community patent which is too burdensome will not be used by industry and, in a Europe with more than 20 official languages, full translation of Community patents will clearly impose high costs. We therefore hope that a reduced- or single-language solution can be found for the Community patent. However, language is understandably a highly sensitive issue, and a solution must be found which is acceptable to our European partners.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on progress towards the development of a community patent for the European Union. [129545]

Malcolm Wicks: Negotiations on a Community patent have been ongoing for a number of decades, and have been complicated by questions around language and jurisdiction. As the European Commission Consultation in 2006 noted, there appears no imminent prospect of achieving the unanimity required in order to establish a community patent.

The consultation aimed to find near term steps to improve the patent system in Europe that would help us to make progress towards the long term goal of a community patent. We anticipate that the Commission will publish its communication on those next steps over the coming few months.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the status is of the 2000 London Agreement on European patent translation costs. [129546]

Malcolm Wicks: UK has ratified the London Agreement along with eight other states including Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands; Sweden and Denmark have made parliamentary commitments to ratify in due course. The agreement will enter into force three months after ratification by the French Government. When the London Agreement enters into force it is estimated to almost halve the translation costs that must currently be paid to patent in Europe. A French parliament report in 2006 recommended ratification, and the agreement has been ruled compatible with the French constitution, but the French Government have not yet indicated their intention to ratify.

Post Office: Contracts

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether any Post Office Limited services *(a)* are and *(b)* are planned to go out to tender. [129530]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook, the managing director, has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Consultation Papers

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff have been deployed *(a)* to record and *(b)* to analyse the responses to the Post Office Network consultation. [129529]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Some 50 members of staff have been available to deal with the handling of responses to the consultation document.

A team of eight officials are involved in reviewing the consultation responses.

Post Offices: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices closed in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; and how many of these were *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural post offices. [129517]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook, the managing director, has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Pregnant Women: Discrimination

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on discrimination against pregnant women since June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [129527]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI commissioned the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits In Britain Survey 2005, published in March 2006, which asked women about the treatment they received during their pregnancy.

Government keeps abreast of other research on pregnancy discrimination.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the merits of replacing a system of grants to encourage people to take on renewable energy and energy efficiency with one of targeted loans connected to council tax discounts for homeowners who have taken energy efficiency measures. [128073]

Malcolm Wicks: The Chancellor keeps national tax matters under review through the Budget and pre-Budget report processes. However, some local authorities have implemented council tax discount schemes for local residents who invest in energy-saving installations. The Government's current assessment is that the Energy Efficiency Commitment, under which major energy suppliers have to reach targets for installing energy efficiency measures in their customers' homes, offers a flexible and cost-effective means of encouraging take-up of insulation and other improvements that reduce both energy bills and UK carbon emissions over time. It also allows targeting of vulnerable groups. The Government are committed to continuing an energy supplier obligation until at least 2020. As announced at the 2006 pre-Budget report, the Government are examining finance models that best support the Energy Efficiency Commitment and encourage take-up of energy efficiency measures and energy audits.

In relation to the stimulation of renewable energy use by householders, the Microgeneration Strategy

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/strategy/page27594.html

sets out a series of measures aimed at boosting demand to help achieve the economies of scale that will lead to costs falling and negate the need for capital grants.

Key measures that will help to achieve this include:

making it easier for microgenerators to access Renewable Obligation Certificates;

working with energy suppliers to ensure that microgenerators receive a fair reward for exported electricity;

a robust accreditation scheme (to build trust in the industry);

local authorities requiring new developments to source a percentage of energy requirements from onsite renewable sources (while not in the strategy itself, the Housing Minister made a statement that she expected all local authorities to develop such requirements following work undertaken in relation to the strategy);

the removal of unnecessary controls in the consents regime (which regulates a wide range of developments by householders).

Research: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many research projects have had their funding ended due to the changes of criteria announced by Research Councils UK in October 2006. [128774]

Malcolm Wicks: None. Research projects under way when Research Councils made their announcement on the criteria for eligibility for funding on October 2006 have proceeded unaffected.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact on scientific research projects of the recent changes of criteria for research funding. [128775]

Malcolm Wicks: Last October the Research Councils clarified their arrangements for eligibility to apply for Research Council funding. Those eligible include UK higher education institutions, Research Council institutes and independent research organisations. Further information is available from the Research Councils UK website.

These arrangements introduce helpful coherence and should strengthen the value obtained overall from this funding.

TREASURY

Digital Broadcasting

Peter Luff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2225W, on digital broadcasting, on what basis he was able to announce in his financial statement a figure for the income from the sale of assets including the auction of spectrum; how much of this figure he announced derives from this auction; and if he will make a statement. [129849]

John Healey: The Budget speech announced expected asset sales of £36 billion between 2006-07 and 2010-11. This £36 billion comprises fixed and financial asset sales, including student loan and public corporation sales. No assumption has been made for proceeds deriving from the sale of the spectrum in this estimate.

Mortgages: Advisory Services

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mortgage advisers are regulated by the Financial Services Authority. [129181]

Ed Balls: Statistics published by the Financial Services Authority show that there were 6,846 regulated mortgage intermediary firms at the end of December 2006.

These data are available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/About/Teams/Retail/statistics/mortgage/index.shtml

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost is of the VAT on the consultation on facilities for the Olympics; and what percentage of this revenue will be passed to the EU. [128937]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made to the House by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 450-66. Details of how the UK's contribution to the EC budget is determined are included in the 2006 European Community Finances White Paper (Cm 6770).

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has circulated guidance to other Departments in the last 12 months following the tabling of round-robin written parliamentary questions. [110931]

John Healey: In its response to the Third Report of Session 2003-04 from the Public Administration Select Committee, the Government made clear that while individual Departments may liaise with each other when they receive the same question, this co-ordination

> "does not cut across the line of ministerial accountability which is that it is for individual Ministers to decide on the final content of an answer to a Parliamentary Question".

The Treasury has provided advice to other Government Departments on this basis.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether stamp duty is charged on Social Homebuy purchases; [129196]

(2) whether stamp duty will be levied on tenants taking out a 10 per cent. equity share under the proposals for reform of the Social Homebuy scheme; [129197]

(3) whether *(a)* the social tenant and *(b)* the social landlord is liable to pay stamp duty under the Social Homebuy scheme. [129234]

Ed Balls: Stamp duty is paid by the purchaser of an interest in land. Purchasers of a share in a property under Social Homebuy are liable to pay stamp duty on the same basis as other shared ownership purchasers. This means that they can, if they wish, elect to pay stamp duty once and for all on the market value of the property, less Social Homebuy discount. Otherwise, they will pay stamp duty on the amount they pay for the initial share of the property. In this case, purchases of further shares up to 80 per cent. are exempt but they will have to pay stamp duty on the purchase of a final share, including the freehold reversion.

Outright purchases under Social Homebuy attract stamp duty on the same basis as a Right to Buy/Right to Acquire purchase: that is, on the price paid for the property, less Social Homebuy discount.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average stamp duty paid on a right to buy sale was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [129236]

Ed Balls: The average stamp duty land tax paid on right to buy transactions in 2005-06 was estimated at £200. The average includes transactions which paid no stamp duty land tax either because the price of the property was below the stamp duty land tax threshold, or because of disadvantaged area relief.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the projected annual cost of introducing zero stamp duty for zero carbon homes in each of the next 10 years. [129493]

Ed Balls: As reported in the Financial Statement and Budget report published on 21 March, the annual cost of the stamp duty exemption is projected to be negligible (defined as less than £3 million) in each year of the fiscal years 2007-08 to 2009-10 and to rise to £15 million in 2011-12.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to transfer responsibility for building regulations in Wales from her Department to the Welsh Assembly Government. [129359]

Angela E. Smith: The National Assembly for Wales has made an approach to this Department requesting that the ability to make building regulations for Wales be transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government. Officials from my Department and the Welsh Assembly Government will shortly be meeting to identify and discuss the issues that would arise from any such transfer.

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has any plans to bring forward a statutory requirement for planning authorities to take account of the recommendations of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. [121551]

Yvette Cooper: We have no current plans to make the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) a statutory consultee in the planning process. However, my Department intends to consult on a review of statutory consultees later this year, and it will be open to respondents to make a case for change at that time. CABE does however already play an important role as a non-statutory consultee in the planning process.

The Department for Communities and Local Government actively encourages all local planning authorities to consult CABE about significant applications in their areas and our chief planner wrote

to all chief planning officers in December 2006 reminding them of the circumstances under which they should seek CABE's advice.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Under the existing non-statutory consultation arrangements, we encourage and support CABE to work directly with architects, planners, designers, developers and clients to offer guidance on projects. CABE makes this guidance available in a number of ways, including the provision of a free expert design review service, which offers independent assessment of schemes. Design review considers 350 major development proposals each year, over 80 per cent. of which are altered in light of its comments.

The current arrangements seek to ensure that CABE's resource is directed at influencing the quality of the most significant schemes, which we consider the best use of its capacity and expertise.

Community Development: Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public expenditure has been to date on the millennium communities scheme. [128533]

Yvette Cooper: There are seven millennium communities. Greenwich Millennium Village was the first to be announced in 1997. The others are at Allerton Bywater (near Leeds), New Islington (east Manchester), South Lynn (Kings Lynn), East Ketley (Telford), Oakgrove (Milton Keynes) and Hastings. In total the programme will bring forward over 9,000 eco-home 'Excellent' standard homes, plus other commercial and community facilities, providing inspiration to both the development industry and the general house-buying public and demonstrating how difficult sites can be brought back into use.

It is not possible to identify the costs linked only to the millennium communities themselves. To date, public expenditure related to the programme amounts to a total of £131,565,732. This figure covers costs outside those that relate specifically to the seven millennium communities, because it is not possible to disaggregate costs retrospectively. It therefore includes elements of the remediation cost of the wider English Partnerships' 121 ha (300 acre) Greenwich peninsula site and not just the costs for the 13 ha (32 acre) section that is the Greenwich Millennium Village itself. The Greenwich Peninsula was previously the site of the largest gas works in Europe, and is one of the largest development sites in London and one of Europe's biggest regeneration projects.

This expenditure by English Partnerships on the millennium communities will be offset by receipts as the land is sold through the usual competitive arrangements to the preferred developer on each site.

Council Housing: Heating

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate *(a)* the number of properties in local council or housing association ownership covered by district heating schemes and *(b)* the energy use per inhabitant in such schemes; whether it is her intention (i) to make proposals and (ii) to provide incentives to improve the energy efficiency of housing not covered by such schemes; and if she will make a statement. [122811]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column: 300W, which provide information about the number of homes covered by district heating systems and the energy use of inhabitants.

To make their homes decent social landlords have to ensure homes have both efficient heating and effective insulation, and this is regardless of the type of heating system currently in the home. The Department's guidance "A Decent Home: Definition and guidance for implementation" encourages landlords to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings.

Research conducted by the Building Research Establishment indicated that almost all landlords engaged in energy efficiency works are taking the opportunity to work to much higher standards than the minimum required by Decent Homes.

Under the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC), electricity and gas suppliers are required to achieve targets for the promotion of improvements in domestic energy efficiency which includes social sector homes.

Council Tax: Boats

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider reducing the council tax payable for people who live in boats on marinas where the owner of the marina pays business rates; and if she will make a statement. [129477]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* No. A mooring occupied by a boat which is somebody's sole or main residence is deemed to be a dwelling for council tax purposes and will therefore attract a council tax liability in the same way as other domestic property, along with any discounts or exemptions that may apply.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128763]

Angela E. Smith: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Empty Housing: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of long-term empty homes in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [125484]

Yvette Cooper: At October 2005 there were an estimated 5,194 long term vacant homes in East Sussex. At October 2005 Eastbourne district council reported a total of 1,568 long-term vacant homes.

These figures are based on long-term vacant homes, empty for more than six months as reported by local authorities in the Council Tax Base return (CTB1).

Local councils in East Sussex now have new powers they can use to bring long-term empty homes into use where appropriate.

Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timescale is for the implementation of the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007; and if she will make a statement. [129863]

Meg Munn: The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 will come into force on 30 April, at the same time as parallel protections on grounds of religion or belief. From this date on, individuals will have a legal remedy to discrimination on these grounds through the county courts in England and Wales or the Sheriff courts in Scotland.

The new regulations provide for a transition period for faith based adoption and fostering agencies until the end of 2008. Any agency wishing to take advantage of the transitional arrangements will have to refer prospective parents they are not prepared to assess on grounds of their sexual orientation to other agencies that will be able to assist. The Prime Minister will be commissioning this May an independent assessment process of the issues agencies will need to address during the transition period, if vital services for children are to be retained and developed. The assessment team will give their first report to the PM before the summer, followed by regular six monthly reports.

Detailed guidance on the implementation of both new sets of protections will also be published in May, after the forthcoming elections. When the Commission for Equality and Human Rights opens its doors this October, it will offer further information, advice and support.

Fire Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to improve the protection of firemen in Lancashire from *(a)* physical and *(b)* verbal attacks when at work. [125749]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has published on its website good practice guidance on tackling violence at work.

On 20 February 2007, the Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006 came into force. This Act, which specifically includes firefighters, makes it an offence to obstruct or hinder an emergency worker responding to emergency circumstances, punishable by fines of up to £5,000.

Fire Services: Bullying

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many reported incidents of bullying there were in the Lancashire fire service in each of the last 10 years. [125748]

Angela E. Smith: Centrally held information, based on annual returns from Lancashire fire and rescue service, on the number of complaints of harassment, bullying or discrimination in Lancashire fire and rescue service is tabled as follows, from the earliest available year which is 1998.

	Uniformed	*Non uniformed*	*Total*
1998-99	8	0	8
1999-2000	5	2	7
2000-01	8	1	9
2001-02	4	0	4
2002-03	4	1	5
2003-04	6	3	9
2004-05	14	0	14
2005-06	2	2	4

Fire Services: Inspections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the transfer of responsibility for fire service inspection to the Audit Commission. [129203]

Angela E. Smith: Responsibility for fire service inspection was transferred to the Audit Commission following the publication of the Government's White Paper "Our Fire and Rescue Service" in June 2003 and the subsequent Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. Since that time, Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate has not carried out any inspections of Fire and Rescue Authorities but has acted as an advisory body providing the Government, the Audit Commission and fire and rescue authorities with advice on professional fire service matters.

The Audit Commission conducted a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) of fire and rescue authorities and reported on their findings in July 2005. This assessment set a baseline for improvement in all fire and rescue authorities and the Audit Commission has subsequently developed a performance assessment framework for the service to measure improvement since CPA. This performance assessment framework consists of three elements—a direction of travel assessment, a use of resources assessment and a service assessment. The service assessment included an operational assessment, developed in conjunction with the Chief Fire Officers Association, and carried out by Fire and Rescue staff seconded into CLG for that purpose. Results of these assessments for 2006-07 are due to be published shortly.

Fire Services: Violence

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many duty firemen in Lancashire were subjected to *(a)* physical violence and *(b)* verbal abuse in each of the last 10 years; and how many convictions there were for (i) physical violence and (ii) verbal abuse towards firemen in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [125747]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has been maintaining records of attacks on firefighters since

April 2004, although it is not held specifically in the form requested. The total number of attacks on firefighters in Lancashire since 2004, based on returns from Lancashire fire and rescue service is as follows:

	Number of attacks
2004	6
2005	24
2006	41
2007 to date	1

The Department does not collect information on the number of convictions.

Freeholds

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures have been introduced to strengthen regulation concerned with *(a)* freeholds and leaseholds, *(b)* the relationship between landlords and tenants and *(c)* ground rents since 1997; and what plans she has to introduce further measures affecting these matters. [129012]

Yvette Cooper: The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 introduced a number of measures that made changes to leasehold legislation. These have helped redress the balance between leaseholders and landlords by strengthening and improving the law, and creating a fairer and more comprehensive system of rights for leaseholders. These measures include the requirement for landlords to serve a particular form of notice on leaseholders before ground rent becomes payable.

We continue to work on the remaining provisions of the 2002 Act which will further improve the rights that leaseholders have. We will introduce them at the earliest opportunity.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will produce an updated regulatory impact assessment for the implementation of home information packs. [128548]

Yvette Cooper: Yes.

Hostels: Finance

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what reports she has received of the effects of changes in *(a)* revenue funding and *(b)* numbers of bed spaces on the submission of bids by charities and registered social landlords for funding under the hostels capital improvement programme. [128035]

Yvette Cooper: Since the launch of the hostels capital improvement programme in December 2004 I have received update reports from my officials regarding the programme on a regular basis. We are not aware of any particular problems with revenue funding or bedspaces and my officials continue to closely monitor progress.

One of the criteria for funding under the hostels capital improvement programme (HCIP) is that there is agreed supporting people or other revenue funding to ensure that high quality support services are continued as capital works are completed. As regards bedspaces, hostel residents are housed elsewhere during building work and there has been no identified impact on the numbers of people sleeping rough.

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to extend the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme beyond 2008; and if she will make a statement. [128036]

Yvette Cooper: The current £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme runs through until March 2008. Future investment under the programme will be dependent on the comprehensive spending review which is under way.

Housing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many long-term empty private sector properties there were in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1980; what each figure represents (i) per 1,000 of the population and (ii) per 1,000 households; and if she will make a statement. [118697]

Yvette Cooper: Information on long term private vacancies (over six months) is only available on a consistent basis back to the year 2000.

Long term vacancies are tabulated below by urban and rural local authorities:

Long term private vacancies (over six months) by urban and rural local authorities[1]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total number of private vacant dwellings							
Rural	91,300	108,100	104,500	108,500	92,300	108,300	93,300
Urban	187,600	202,100	203,300	199,900	205,400	179,800	195,500
Total	278,900	310,200	307,800	308,400	297,700	288,100	288,300
Number of private vacant dwellings per 1,000 households[2]							
Rural	12	14	14	14	12	14	12
Urban	15	15	15	15	15	13	14
Total	14	15	15	15	14	14	13

Long term private vacancies (over six months) by urban and rural local authorities[1]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of private vacant dwellings per 1,000 population[2]							
Rural	5	6	6	6	5	6	5
Urban	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Total	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

[1] Based on the DEFRA rural definition (2004).
[2] 2003 household/population projections and estimates.
Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix

Since long term private vacancies are not available on a consistent basis prior to 2000, total private vacancies (long and short term) are tabulated in the following table by urban and rural local authorities every five years since 1981 to provide a long term view.

The table shows that the number of private vacant dwellings per 1,000 households in rural local authorities has fallen since 1991, with a larger fall between 1996 and 2006. Vacancy rates have also fallen in urban areas since 1996.

Total private vacancies (long and short term) by urban and rural local authorities[1]

	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
Total number of private vacant dwellings						
Rural	198,900	206,300	241,800	239,500	219,900	204,700
Urban	307,000	348,700	396,400	427,800	402,700	381,100
Total	505,900	554,800	638,200	667,300	622,600	585,900
Number of private vacant dwellings per 1,000 household[2]						
Rural	34	33	36	34	30	26
Urban	27	30	32	34	31	28
Total	29	31	33	34	30	27
Number of private vacant dwellings per 1,000 population[2]						
Rural	12	12	14	14	12	11
Urban	10	11	13	14	13	12
Total	11	12	13	14	13	12

1 Based on the DEFRA rural definition (2004)
2 2003 Household/Population Projections and Estimates
Source:
Housing strategy statistical appendix

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what areas housing targets have been set; what target has been set for each area; and what the *(a)* size and *(b)* population is of each area. [125875]

Yvette Cooper: Regional spatial strategies include housing provision figures for constituent housing market and local planning authority areas for each region, except in London, where they are set out in the spatial development strategy (The London Plan). All regional spatial strategies are currently in the process of being revised.

Housing Data Warehouse

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on the Housing Data Warehouse, whether the council tax valuation list data being provided by the Valuation Office Agency will include the details of the council tax banding of *(a)* individual properties, *(b)* neighbourhoods/market areas, *(c)* super-output areas and *(d)* sub-sets thereof. [129266]

Mr. Woolas: *(a)* yes; *(b)*, *(c)* and *(d)* no.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 582W, on the Housing Data Warehouse, (1) what the estimated *(a)* set-up costs and *(b)* running costs are of the Housing Data Warehouse; [129267]

(2) which Departments and Government agencies will have access to the Housing Data Warehouse; [129249]

(3) what the live date is for the Housing Data Warehouse. [129254]

Angela E. Smith: The estimated costs of the Housing Data Warehouse are £9,000 for set up and £3,000 annual running costs. These are negligible because it runs on the existing IT infrastructure.

The Housing Data Warehouse will be directly accessible only from within Communities and Local Government. There are no plans to extend direct access to other Government Departments.

In respect of the data contained in the Housing Data Warehouse I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 8 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1571W.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to reform housing revenue accounts to allow local authorities to keep more of their rental income. [127159]

Yvette Cooper: Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy is based on a notional measure of authorities' income (which is mainly rents) and expenditure. If need to spend is assumed to be greater than assumed income, then the authority is assumed to have a deficit and HRA subsidy is paid to the authority to make up that shortfall. If the assumed income is greater than the assumed need to spend, this negative subsidy is captured, recycled within the HRA subsidy system and used to help pay for the subsidy entitlement of the deficit authorities. Even with this recycling, in the most recent year for which audited data are available (2005-06), the Exchequer still made an annual contribution of over £200 million.

Surpluses (and deficits) are not related to the efficiency of a council in operating its HRA. Surpluses rarely, if ever, occur where the need to spend is greatest; if those authorities that make surpluses retained them this would, within the total funding levels agreed, mean reduced subsidies and therefore higher rents, for all those authorities with a deficit. The alternative would be higher taxes or cuts in services. The surpluses that are being generated by some authorities also come from housing that has largely been funded by central Government.

My Department is currently working with a group of local authorities to investigate the potential benefits, in terms of asset management, efficiency and better outcomes, of allowing some councils to leave the subsidy system. Self financing would involve a one-off settlement to replace future subsidy or surplus payments. As such, it would not be a means for surplus authorities to have a larger share of overall housing resources.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1800W, how many dwellings were *(a)* permitted and *(b)* built in (i) England, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) each (A) district, (B) borough and (C) unitary authority in Hampshire in each year since 2003. [126398]

Yvette Cooper: Information on the dwellings granted planning permission is not held centrally.

The following numbers of dwellings were built in England, Hampshire and each district in Hampshire since 2003-04:

New build completions in England, Hampshire and Hampshire districts

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
England	143,958	155,893	163,398
Hampshire	5,891	6,107	6,472
Basingstoke and Deane	740	729	910
East Hampshire	399	443	329
Eastleigh	489	829	681
Fareham	270	193	327
Gosport	443	185	345
Hart	516	531	495
Havant	197	142	229
New Forest	487	504	382
Portsmouth UA	512	457	630
Rushmoor	137	491	423
Southampton UA	573	792	860
Test Valley	473	220	333
Winchester	487	533	481

Note:
Hampshire level figures include estimates for missing or partial LA returns.
LA figures are as reported.
Source:
P2 Housebuilding return as reported by local authorities and National Housebuilding Council.

Housing: Disabled

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that sufficient funding is available through the disability facilities grant to ensure recommendations made following visits by occupational therapists to those who face access issues are implemented. [128058]

Yvette Cooper: Under the disabled facilities grant (DFG) programme it is for the local housing authority to assess the need of a disabled person for housing adaptations in the light of the mandatory entitlements to assistance set out in section 23 of the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. The housing authority must also judge whether any work to a dwelling is reasonable or practicable having regard to its age and condition.

The grant is also means tested and subject to a maximum limit of £25,000.

The housing authority will normally take expert advice from an occupational therapist in order to assess the need of the disabled person but the grant award under DFG must take account of all of the provisions of the DFG legislation as described.

The Department provides ring-fenced funding to local authorities to support the expenditure incurred by them in delivering the DFG programme. In 2007-08 £126 million was made available from this Department for authorities in England. Local authorities are required to find the remainder of funding from their own resources to fulfil their statutory obligations.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Government have made of the net deficit or surplus of housing revenue accountable authorities following the 2007-08 housing subsidy determination. [128320]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The 2007-08 HRA Subsidy Determination calculates allowances that each local authority will receive and also makes assumptions on notional rental income. But to calculate the subsidy entitlement that a local authority will receive from, or pay out to, the Exchequer other authority-specific factors are required such as the average rate of interest on their borrowing. These specific factors are only applied when the local authority makes their claims for subsidy during 2007-08. We will not have a final audited subsidy figure for 2007-08 for each local authority until 2009. The most up-to-date audited actual subsidy entitlement figures we have are for 2005-06.

Housing: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable houses were built in *(a)* the London borough of Havering and *(b)* Romford in each year since 2001. [124837]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of affordable homes provided in the London borough of Havering in each financial year since 2000-01 are tabled as follows. The numbers of affordable homes provided in Romford are not readily available. Figures include both new build and acquisitions.

Affordable homes provided: Havering

	Number of homes
2000-01	38
2001-02	197
2002-03	59
2003-04	112
2004-05	154
2005-06	147

Note:
Affordable housing includes social rent, low cost home ownership and other sub-market rental products.
Source:
Housing Corporation, local authority statistical returns.

Housing: Leasehold

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to review the marriage value on properties where the lease has less than 80 years to run; and if she will make a statement. [128102]

Yvette Cooper: The Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 amended the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 so that marriage value would be disregarded where the unexpired term of the existing lease exceeds 80 years. For existing leases where the unexpired term is 80 years or less, marriage value is split 50/50 between the leaseholder and the landlord. We have no current plans to review the way marriage value is treated.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in each London borough as a result of section 106 agreements in each of the last five years. [124604]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of affordable homes provided in each London borough as a result of a section 106 agreement in each of the last five years are tabled as follows. Figures include both new build and acquisitions.

Affordable homes provided through section 106 agreements: London

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
City of London	0	0	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	98	0	135	42	168
Barnet	25	59	74	111	66
Bexley	0	30	4	0	12
Brent	260	228	168	78	11
Bromley	4	188	11	191	138
Camden	22	39	9	128	133
Croydon	37	84	67	121	130
Ealing	66	204	225	132	284
Enfield	72	116	1	66	26
Greenwich	78	116	550	362	336
Hackney	[1]	302	[1]	[1]	182
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	168	381	300	57
Haringey	85	173	[1]	284	23
Harrow	37	102	105	78	122
Havering	95	65	32	53	76
Hillingdon	64	86	60	63	58
Hounslow	42	67	160	135	118
Islington	2	156	65	44	405
Kensington and Chelsea	11	59	34	0	66
Kingston upon Thames	25	12	18	153	18
Lambeth	86	147	332	257	224
Lewisham	0	39	0	55	232
Merton	22	58	12	165	37
Newham	6	14	86	8	388
Redbridge	177	194	180	53	323
Richmond upon Thames	42	9	104	167	2
Southwark	10	66	43	36	166
Sutton	26	57	9	135	195
Tower Hamlets	151	106	367	184	449
Waltham Forest	8	50	0	77	120
Wandsworth	39	80	[1]	59	102
Westminster	139	62	79	165	186
London	1,847	3,136	3,840	3,676	4,853

[1] Data are missing.
Notes:
1. Local authority areas do not always sum to their regional totals due to imputed figures which are only included at the regional level.
2. Figures include both new build and acquisitions.
3. Affordable homes include social rent, low cost homeownership and other sub market rental products.
4. Figures include homes funded solely or partially through section 106 agreements.
Source:
Local authority statistical returns.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to classify low-cost housing developed by the private sector for non-social tenants as affordable housing for planning policy purposes. [128555]

Yvette Cooper: Affordable housing is defined in "Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing" published in November last year. The Government adopted this new definition, which includes social rented and intermediate housing, because we wished to ensure that developer contributions were used to help provide genuinely affordable housing for households in need over the longer term. The definition can include homes provided by private sector bodies.

Local planning authorities should plan for the full range of market housing. In particular, they should take account of the need to deliver low-cost market housing as part of the housing mix.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the availability of affordable or social rented housing on political extremism. [129207]

Yvette Cooper: Communities and Local Government is currently engaged in examining the means by which we monitor the impact of policies on cohesion and extremism, including those relating to housing.

The role of housing in contributing to community cohesion is one of several matters being considered by the independent Commission on Integration and Cohesion, which is due to report in June 2007.

Housing: Meters

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with colleagues in the Department *(a)* of Trade and Industry and *(b)* for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the inclusion of smart-enabled meters in new build houses. [128724]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government has had a number of exchanges with colleagues in the Departments *(a)* of Trade and Industry and *(b)* for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in relation to the Energy White Paper and the energy performance in buildings directive. The Government will set out their views on metering in the forthcoming Energy White Paper.

Housing: Prices

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average house price was in each Government office region in England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [128627]

Yvette Cooper: Data for monthly mix-adjusted house prices by Government office region are published as Live Table 592 on the Communities and Local Government website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/165/Table592_id1156165.xls. The most recent data for January 2007 were published on 12 March 2007.

Sub market sales including right-to-buy sales are excluded from the figures.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors were taken into account when deciding that Supporting People agencies should be able to require efficiency savings of home improvement agencies. [127545]

Mr. Woolas: Individual Supporting People administering authorities, not "Supporting People agencies", are responsible for the local delivery of Supporting People services including Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs). Authorities manage this by establishing contracts with service providers, and they are responsible for managing their funding and so for delivering on any efficiencies that are required.

Communities and Local Government is developing a Supporting People national value improvement programme from 2008 in which all Supporting People authorities will be encouraged to adopt improved commissioning and procurement practices to help to further improve overall value for money in the provision of all services.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) managed residential properties have been brought up to the Decent Homes Standard since the start of the ALMOs programme in April 2002; and how many were brought up to that standard in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [126472]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* The following table, based on returns from local authorities and ALMOs, shows the number of dwellings managed on behalf of the council by ALMOs which have been made decent in each year since 2002-03.

Number of homes made decent by ALMOs

	Dwellings
2002-03	21,949
2003-04	46,050
2004-05	48,583
2005-06	53,849
2006-07[1]	51,524
Total	221,955

[1]Forecast.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residents of arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) managed residential properties have lived in homes brought up to the Decent Homes Standard *(a)* since the start of the ALMOs programme in April 2002 and *(b)* in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [126474]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Communities and Local Government does not currently collect specific returns on residents whose homes, managed on behalf of the council by ALMOs, have been brought up to the Decent Homes Standard.

However, by using an average number of people per council home we can estimate the following figures.

Number of residents living in homes made decent by ALMOs

	Residents
2002-03	48,946
2003-04	102,692
2004-05	108,340
2005-06	120,083
2006-07[1]	114,899
Total	494,960

[1] Forecast.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on how its village agent workforce can work in tandem with home improvement agencies. [128057]

James Purnell: I have been asked to reply.

Extensive discussions have taken place and the village agent workforce is already working in tandem with home improvement agencies.

Village agents have strong links with the HIAs, building on their association with the community and adult care helpdesk and its FASTtrack minor adaptations service. The links between the organisations work in two directions as the HIA will also contact the adult helpdesk if they feel that a person who has been referred to them from another area would benefit from the assistance of the adult helpdesk and village agent if applicable.

There are already results covering a range of referrals covering a wide band of HIA services.

Housing: Waiting Lists

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were registered on local authority housing waiting lists in *(a)* each English region and *(b)* each London local authority in 2006; and what the percentage change was on the previous year in each case. [128671]

Yvette Cooper: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in *(a)* each English region *(b)* each London local authority; and the percentage change on the previous year is given in the following tables.

(a) Number of households on waiting list for social housing, as at 1st April by region, as reported by local authorities

	2005	2006	Percentage change on previous year
North East	89,747	95,359	6
North West	200,600	217,397	8
Yorkshire and the Humber	227,430	247,459	9
East Midlands	137,095	133,823	-2
West Midlands	137,992	126,629	-8
East of England	129,184	135,444	5
London	309,072	328,116	6
South East	181,196	195,700	8
South West	131,193	151,220	15
England	1,543,509	1,631,187	6

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

(b) Number of households on waiting list by London local authority, as reported by local authorities

	2005	2006	Percentage change on previous year
Barking and Dagenham	2,321	4,575	97
Barnet	13,627	16,470	21
Bexley	4,528	5,955	32
Brent	17,351	16,398	-5
Bromley	2,998	4,282	43
Camden	16,532	9,562	-42
City of London	1,204	1,427	19
Croydon	8,856	9,271	5
Ealing	14,324	15,936	11
Enfield	7,872	7,055	-10
Greenwich	7,666	10,239	34
Hackney	7,744	8,815	14
Hammersmith and Fulham	8,384	7,795	-7
Haringey	19,930	24,939	25
Harrow	4,944	5,533	12
Havering	3,477	3,876	11
Hillingdon	7,471	7,136	-4
Hounslow	10,382	11,666	12
Islington	6,326	8,489	34
Kensington and Chelsea	9,436	10,798	14
Kingston upon Thames	4,903	5,726	17
Lambeth	10,648	13,611	28
Lewisham	18,279	17,535	-4
Merton	5,188	3,278	-37
Newham	25,317	29,574	17
Redbridge	7,941	10,807	36
Richmond upon Thames	4,898	5,726	17
Southwark	7,548	8,057	7
Sutton	3,724	3,408	-8
Tower Hamlets	21,183	12,926	-39
Waltham Forest	8,837	11,059	25
Wandsworth	8,668	8,952	3
Westminster	6,565	7,240	10

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of

a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in Taunton constituency are on housing waiting lists; and how many have been waiting *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* six to 12 months, *(c)* 12 to 18 months, *(d)* 18 to 24 months and *(e)* over 24 months for housing. [128745]

Yvette Cooper: The constituency of Taunton covers the whole of Taunton Deane district council but also includes a large part of West Somerset district council. Information is not collected at the constituency level, only at local authority level and includes households rather than people. Information on length of waiting time on a housing list for households is not held centrally.

However, the number of households on the waiting list for social housing in Taunton Deane, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has she made of the effect of landbanking by developers on the cost of housing. [129201]

Yvette Cooper: Landbanking and option contracts were considered within Kate Barker's Review of Housing Supply, commissioned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Deputy Prime Minister. Her interim report (December 2003) found little evidence, across the country as a whole, to substantiate concerns that these practices allow housebuilders to erect barriers to entry into the market; however, once land is acquired, competitive pressure and responsiveness in the industry are reduced and faster rates of production may be more socially beneficial.

In December 2006 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the Callcutt Review of Housebuilding Delivery. The Review will provide analysis of the acquisition, holding and disposal of land for housebuilding, the volumes of land held and the influence of land supply on levels of housebuilding production. This will include an assessment of the relationship between supply and demand for housing and any observed market failures and the means by which they may be addressed. We expect the Review to report in the autumn.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department collects on landbanking by developers. [129206]

Yvette Cooper: Communities and Local Government does not collect information on landbanking by developers.

The Callcutt Review of Housebuilding Delivery, announced by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in December 2006, will provide analysis of the acquisition, holding and disposal of land for housebuilding, the volumes of land held and the influence of land supply on levels of housebuilding production. This will include an assessment of the relationship between supply and demand for housing and any observed market failures and the means by which they may be addressed. We expect the Review to report in the autumn.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Comprehensive Performance Assessment rankings and scores have been for every council since its introduction. [129274]

Mr. Woolas: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member. The reply was sent on 22 March and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will respond to the letter of 12 January from the hon. Member for Billericay on the provisional local government finance settlement 2007-08 for Basildon council. [130042]

Mr. Woolas: I have now replied to the hon. Member's letter.

Millennium Dome

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research has been conducted into the causes of the Millennium Dome cost over-runs. [129102]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

Since the final cost of the Millennium Experience was just 4 per cent. higher than the amount allowed for in the original May 1997 budget, we have not conducted any specific research. However, the National Audit Office published two wider reports on the Millennium Experience, "The Millennium Dome" (HC936) in 2000 and "Winding up the New Millennium Experience Company" (HC749) in 2002.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a material change to a business premises that increases the rateable value will result in an amended business rates bill prior to the next periodic business rates revaluation. [129209]

Mr. Woolas: Billing authorities calculate and send out revised rates bills to ratepayers as soon as possible after changes in rateable values have been notified to them by valuation officers, rather than waiting until the next revaluation of non-domestic properties.

Planning Permission

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment concerning issues of planning permission guidance; when those meetings took place; whether she plans to publish the minutes of the meeting; and if she will make a statement. [126817]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The Secretary of State has not met with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) specifically to discuss issues related to planning. She last met with representatives from CABE on 21 November 2006 for a general discussion of their progress against agreed work priorities for 2006-07. At this meeting CABE did re-iterate views it had set out as part of its formal response to the consultation on the forthcoming Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing, with specific reference to the importance of emphasising good design.

CABE is the Government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space and, therefore Communities and Local Government Ministers may meet with CABE for a variety of reasons each year. One meeting will normally be held to discuss CABE's objectives for the forthcoming year. Other meetings can involve a broad discussion on design issues which may include consideration of how CABE's programmes can support good quality outcomes from the planning process, for example through its design review service.

There will also be occasions when Ministers and CABE representatives are both present at meetings and events that are also attended by other parties, and at which the planning system may be among the issues discussed.

Planning: Fees and Charges

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2005 (S.I., 2005 No. 843) to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126651]

Yvette Cooper: Statutory Instrument 843 of 2005 relates to planning fees. The Regulatory Impact Assessment issued at the time balanced the additional cost to applicants (including businesses) against the benefit to applicants of a better-funded, more effective planning service.

In the year since the fee increase (2005-06) research suggests that planning fee income to local authorities increased by £35 million. The number of local authorities meeting all their Best Value targets for turning round planning applications has gone up from 19 per cent. in the year ending 31 March 2004, to 64 per cent. in the year ending 31 March 2006.

The cost to regulators was merely that of using existing staff to revise the legislation and inform stakeholders.

Regeneration: Finance

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated to regeneration projects from her Department in each year between 2001-02 and 2005-06, broken down by by local authority area. [125876]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many regeneration projects received funding from her Department in each year between 2001-02 and 2005-06, broken down by region. [125877]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of her Department's spending was devoted to *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural regeneration and redevelopment in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [125890]

Yvette Cooper: We estimate that around 32 per cent., 36 per cent. and 37 per cent. of the Department's main programme spend was spent on regeneration and redevelopment programmes for 2003-04 , 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. It is not possible to analyse how much of this expenditure could be considered to be urban and how much rural regeneration and redevelopment other than at disproportionate cost.

Rents: North West Region

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* Denton and Reddish constituency pay a rent charge. [127905]

Yvette Cooper: The precise address and location of a particular property is required to access this information from the Land Registry. It is not possible to provide the quantity of homeowners paying a rent charge without a description of all of the properties relevant to the enquiry. Information on particular premises can be obtained for a small charge by contacting the Land Registry.

Rents: Swindon

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what average rent was paid in Swindon by *(a)* council tenants, *(b)* tenants with a registered social landlord and *(c)* tenants paying market rates in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement; [127658]

(2) what average rent was paid for *(a)* council housing and *(b)* registered social landlord housing in each local authority in England in the last year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [127661]

Yvette Cooper: The average rent paid for local authority housing was £57.90, and for registered social landlord housing it was £64.32. Figures are as at the end of April 2006 and for local authorities are based on unaudited information. Figures for the RSL sector are based on data collected by the Housing Corporation.

The average rent paid by tenants in Swindon as at end April 2006 was £54.57 for local authority rents, and £67.54 for RSL rents.

As part of the next restructuring programme, local authority and housing association rents for similar properties are converging. Information on average rent paid by private renters in Swindon is not available. This information is available by region as tabled.

Table 734: Rents, lettings and tenancies: mean rent[1] of "free market"[2] private tenancies: by region

£ a month

	1994-95 and 1995-96 combined	*1995-96 and 1996-97 combined*	*1996-97 and 1997-98 combined*	*1997-98 and 1998-99 combined*	*1998-99 and 1999-2000 combined*	*1999-2000 and 2000-01 combined*
North East	267	283	263	256	240	257
North West	282	307	277	287	329	330
Yorkshire and the Humber	259	266	267	268	283	284
The North	272	289	271	276	297	300
East Midlands	251	256	266	303	304	279
West Midlands	274	300	303	280	279	316
The Midlands	262	278	285	290	291	296
East	324	339	353	356	359	387
London	502	549	577	613	642	655
South East	386	390	421	437	441	470
South West	283	306	318	339	355	364
The South	400	426	445	465	483	511
England	350	373	380	390	403	421

£ a month

	2000-01 and 2001-02 combined	*2001-02 and 2002-03 combined*	*2002-03 and 2003-04 combined*	*2003-04 and 2004-05 combined*	*2004-05 and 2005-06 combined*
North East	301	311	314	327	323
North West	334	343	350	359	371
Yorkshire and the Humber	294	324	350	374	359
The North	314	331	344	359	357
East Midlands	323	357	364	371	385
West Midlands	342	357	370	370	383
The Midlands	332	356	366	371	384
East	407	417	444	492	530
London	713	817	827	775	798
South East	517	584	586	565	588
South West	396	413	419	446	469
The South	553	613	628	614	639
England	460	502	518	517	534

[1] Before deduction of housing benefit where applicable.
[2] Assured and assured shorthold tenancies accessible to the public without special conditions.

Note:
Sampling variability is too great for the figures to give a reliable indication of change between years at regional level.

Source:
DCLG Survey of English Housing
Latest update 4 October 2006
Next update November 2007

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether tenants on housing benefit may exercise the right to buy. [128093]

Yvette Cooper: Tenants who are in receipt of housing benefit may exercise the right to buy if they meet the qualifying criteria—i.e. that they hold secure tenancies and have been public sector tenants for at least five years. However, their ability to do so would depend on the willingness of lenders to offer them mortgage finance, or the availability of financial assistance from family or friends.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average *(a)* house price value and *(b)* cost to the purchaser was after the discount of a right to buy council property in England in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [129224]

Yvette Cooper: In 1996-97 the average value of a council property sold through the right to buy scheme in England was £41,000; after the discount was applied this represented an average cost to the purchaser of £21,000.

In 2005-06 the average value of a council property sold through the right to buy scheme in England was £84,000; after the discount was applied this represented an average cost to the purchaser of £58,000.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average net receipt to the public finances is from a right to buy sale. [129228]

Yvette Cooper: The average capital receipt to the public finances from the sale of a council property through the right to buy scheme in England in 2005-06 was £58,000.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been sold under the right to buy since its introduction. [129229]

Yvette Cooper: Between 1 October 1980 and 31 March 2006, 1,735,000 council properties have been sold through the right to buy scheme in England.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing tenants *(a)* in each English region and *(b)* in each London local authority moved via Homeswap in each of the last five years. [128457]

Yvette Cooper: Homeswap was the name given to a scheme for social housing tenants who transfer from one local authority or housing association property to another, across local authority boundaries, by advertising their existing property for an exchange with a similar tenant wishing to move in the opposite direction. We do not collect data on Homeswap specifically, but do routinely collect data on mutual exchanges which include those formally arranged through the Homeswap scheme as well as any other exchanges within the local authority. Information is available on number of dwellings rather than social housing tenants. Dwellings let through mutual exchanges within the local authority are shown for the last five years in *(a)* each English region and *(b)* each London local authority in the table.

(a) Dwellings let through mutual exchange, as at 1 April by region, as reported by local authorities

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	1,638	1,525	1,343	1,396	1,272
North West	1,627	1,135	1,082	1,101	972
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,546	1,406	1,570	1,860	1,495
East Midlands	2,478	1,668	1,468	1,556	1,463
West Midlands	2,479	2,305	1,869	1,578	1,548
East of England	3,195	2,707	2,444	2,248	2,207
London	2,811	3,202	2,522	2,299	2,243
South East	2,768	2,393	2,241	2,211	2,160
South West	1,546	1,433	1,486	1,533	1,540
England	20,088	17,774	16,025	15,782	14,900

Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA).

(b) Dwellings let through mutual exchange, as at 1 April by London local authority, as reported by local authorities

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barking and Dagenham	86	203	127	127	137
Barnet	115	99	73	88	80
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0
Brent	21	16	23	16	29
Bromley	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	108	110	88	94	57
City of London	4	6	4	5	6
Croydon	154	154	148	159	145
Ealing	102	105	61	15	46
Enfield	68	103	90	150	138
Greenwich	131	183	211	106	165
Hackney	41	59	63	41	67
Hammersmith and Fulham	98	107	71	74	55
Haringey	79	72	59	66	54
Harrow	29	35	18	21	29
Havering	72	63	46	56	64
Hillingdon	162	145	141	101	69
Hounslow	173	175	124	133	114
Islington	193	139	163	101	167
Kensington and Chelsea	31	30	36	15	36
Kingston upon Thames	41	45	40	46	34
Lambeth	96	101	66	36	15
Lewisham	250	291	160	148	93
Merton	62	59	45	51	48
Newham	107	115	99	88	85
Redbridge	22	16	21	30	31

(b) Dwellings let through mutual exchange, as at 1 April by London local authority, as reported by local authorities

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0
Southwark	144	180	160	128	133
Sutton	79	85	98	98	74
Tower Hamlets	111	141	62	84	26
Waltham Forest	96	173	108	101	118
Wandsworth	85	112	66	92	89
Westminster	51	80	51	29	39

Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA).

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of changes in the level of immigration on waiting lists for social housing. [129208]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not collect information centrally on the number of migrants on local authority waiting lists. However, the Department does collect information on the number of lettings to foreign nationals by local authorities.

In the 12 months up to September 2006, local authorities reported that under 1 per cent. of lettings were made to foreign nationals.

South East Plan

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1163W, on the South East Plan, if she will place in the Library a copy of the reports commissioned from Robert Tym and Partners. [129269]

Angela E. Smith: A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

Sustainable Development: Rapid Transit System

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for the integration of light rail systems *(a)* into the new sustainable communities and *(b)* in existing urban areas being regenerated. [129113]

Mr. Woolas: The Government recognise that access to good quality local services and infrastructure, including transport, is a key element of creating sustainable communities. It is the responsibility of local authorities to determine their transport needs and to develop appropriate solutions in each case, taking account of local and regional plans.

Telecommunications

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether in addition to the forthcoming consultation on non-domestic rates for unbundled local loops she has any plans to take further steps on the wider review of rating telecoms infrastructure as outlined in the Government's response to the 2002 Annual Report from the Broadband Stakeholder Group. [126910]

Mr. Woolas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. and learned Friend the Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien), to the then hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Allan) on 21 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 245W. There are no plans to take any further steps on the rating of telecoms infrastructure beyond the forthcoming consultation and subsequent secondary legislation on local loop unbundling.

Temporary Accommodation: Swindon

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people lived in temporary accommodation in Swindon in each year since 1995. [127665]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people.

Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter. The figures include both those households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, and those for which enquiries are pending.

A summary table showing the total number of households in temporary accommodation, from 1997-98 to 2005-06, for each local authority (including Swindon,) was placed in the Library of the House on 23 October 2006.

Key data at local authority level are published in supplementary tables to our quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness. These are placed in the Library each quarter, as well as published on our website. Data on the number of households in temporary accommodation in the Thamesdown district of Wiltshire, for years prior to 1997-98, are already available in the Library.

In January 2005 the Government set a target of halving the number of households in all forms of temporary accommodation used by local authorities to discharge their main duty under the homelessness legislation.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of letting agencies which will meet the implementation deadline of 6 April 2007 for the Tenancy Deposit Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [127419]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* All letting agencies should be able to comply with the requirements of the tenancy deposit protection. From

6 April 2007 there will be three schemes for operation. A letting agent will be able to decide with their landlord clients to either insure the deposit with one of the two insurance based schemes or lodge the deposit with the custodial scheme.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure the Tenancy Deposit Scheme does not create a disproportionate administrative or financial burden for small businesses; and if she will make a statement. [127421]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* The Department has worked with stakeholders to ensure that the tenancy deposit protection scheme does not create an administrative or financial burden. There is no charge for the use of the custodial scheme and information that needs to be provided to a tenant has been kept to a minimum and is prescribed by the Department.

Unitary Councils

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much she has budgeted for the cost of assessment of unitary authority bids going to independent audit *(a)* per bid and *(b)* in total. [127513]

Mr. Woolas: The assessment of proposals against the criteria are decisions for Ministers, having regard to all the relevant information available to them. This information will include for proposals that proceed to stakeholder consultation, the results of the limited assurance to the baseline financial data that will be carried out by the Audit Commission and for which the Commission will charge the authorities concerned.

Valuation Office

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 11 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 906W, on the Valuation Office Agency, what the expected payments by *(a)* Capgemini and *(b)* the Agency to (i) CLT and (ii) Tyler Technologies are in 2007-08. [128561]

Mr. Woolas: Payments will depend on the support to be provided, which is subject to discussion.

Waste Management: Domestic wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice the Audit Commission has provided to local authorities on the frequency of domestic rubbish collections. [129237]

Angela E. Smith: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I asked the Chief Executive to write to the hon. Member. The Chief Executive subsequently replied to him on 22 March and a copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Credit Cards

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff in his Department have corporate charge cards; and whether he holds one. [129413]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Government procurement cards are used by civil servants as required in accordance with the terms of the Cardholders' Manual issued by Communities and Local Government, which administers cards on our behalf. I do not hold one.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many meetings he held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128752]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Departments: Database

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what databases are controlled by his Department; and what percentage of the data in each database he estimates is inaccurate or out of date. [124041]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The only databases controlled by my Department contain internal records of correspondence.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Publications

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Office publication 'The Occupants Guide: A-Z of Key Services at The Admiralty Arch Building'. [129143]

Hilary Armstrong: The occupant guides are no longer in use.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library copies of the last 12 months of the Cabinet Office's staff newsletter. [129144]

Hilary Armstrong: This is an internal staff journal and not for publication.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the latest edition of the Central Office of Information's IPO directory. [129146]

Mr. McFadden: The Central Office of Information's IPO (Information and Press Officers) Directory is now officially called the White Book and lists a wide range

of contacts in Government Departments and agencies, not just information and press officers.

The latest edition was distributed on 6 March and copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

The next edition is due to be published at the end of July.

National Youth Volunteering Organisation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library the details of each project funded by the National Youth Volunteering Organisation, v; what estimate she has made of the number of people who volunteered through each project; what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* location was of each project; and on what date the project (i) commenced and (ii) ended. [128901]

Edward Miliband: Details of the projects funded by the independent charity v in its first grants round are contained in the press release issued by v on 27 September 2006. Copies will be placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

In the first grants round, v has supported the creation of 42,000 volunteering opportunities involving 100 organisations. The break-down on funded projects shows 31 projects for short-term volunteering opportunities, 32 projects for part-time opportunities, 17 projects for full-time volunteering opportunities, and 20 projects through the v development teams. The projects funded ranged in size from providing 15 to 4,000 volunteering opportunities and from a cost of £240 to £298,500 for the total project cost.

In addition, through partnerships with the private sector, 64 projects are being supported by the match fund to the tune of £7.5 million, which will create a further 43,000 opportunities.

These projects are set to commence at various points between summer 2006 and spring 2008.

Details of projects which v has supported will be made available in the Annual Report, which will be published this year.

Press Officers

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many press officers her Department employs; and at what cost. [130008]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office employs eight press officers at an estimated cost of £475,000 in 2006-07.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin) of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 853W, on primary care trusts, which trusts have been visited; and if she will place in the Library copies of the reports of each visit. [129911]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has visited the following 35 primary care trusts (PCTs) within the last year:

Broxtowe and Hucknall
Croydon
Kingston
Leeds
Thurrock
Tower Hamlets
Somerset Coast
Gateshead
Oldham
South Somerset
Wandsworth
East Surrey
Calderdale
East Sussex
Hammersmith and Fulham
Manchester
Wiltshire
Herefordshire
New Forest
Southampton
Lambeth
Southwark
North Sheffield
Sheffield
Barking
Bromley
Plymouth
Redbridge
Selby and York
East Birmingham
Cambridge
Islington
Eastleigh and Test Valley
Westminster
Stockport.

The purpose of the visits is to gain an understanding from the front line of issues affecting delivery of key services, rather than assess the performance of individual PCTs. The resulting reports constitute confidential advice to Ministers and are not published.

DEFENCE

Courts Martial

12.**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the effectiveness of the courts martial process; and if he will make a statement. [129308]

Mr. Ingram: The courts-martial process was most recently examined during the passing of the 2006 Armed Forces Act. As a result changes are being made which include enhancing the role of the service police in the conduct of investigations likely to lead to a court-martial, and applying the same rules across the three services.

Armed Forces' Housing

13. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the provision of local authority housing for former members of the armed forces. [129309]

Derek Twigg: I discussed the issue of local authority housing for former members of the armed forces when I met my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government, on 13 March. We agreed that our officials should work together to ensure that servicemen and women are fairly treated in terms of access to social housing.

Iraq

14. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in training the Iraqi army; and if he will make a statement. [129311]

Des Browne: The coalition has so far trained and equipped an Iraqi Army comprising ten divisions and around 135,000 personnel.

The new Iraqi military headquarters in Baghdad has full operational control of four divisions of the Iraqi Army and more divisions will transfer over the coming months. This transfer of command and control is a critical step towards the Iraqi Government taking full responsibility for delivering security in Iraq.

Afghanistan

15. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of counter-narcotics operations on the level of insurgency in southern Afghanistan. [129312]

Des Browne: Targeted counter-narcotic operations by Afghan forces continue to contribute positively to the international effort to stabilize that country. While there has been some opposition, this has been localised and it is not assessed to have significantly affected the wider insurgency.

17. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in establishing Afghanistan development zones; and if he will make a statement. [129314]

Des Browne: UK operations in Afghanistan are focused around the Lashkar Gah Development Zone. To date, the creation of six other Afghan Development Zones has been announced and we expect more to follow.

19. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether British forces will take *(a)* M26 and *(b)* any other cluster munition rockets among the ammunition to be used by multiple launch rocket systems when deployed in Afghanistan. [129317]

Des Browne: No.

PFI Liabilities

16. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's private finance initiative liabilities are; and if he will make a statement. [129313]

Mr. Ingram: The MOD's private finance initiative commitments are published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Injured Troops

18. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when he next expects to meet Department of Health Ministers to discuss the medical treatment of injured service personnel. [129315]

Derek Twigg: I am looking forward to sharing a platform at the veterans plenary conference on 28 March with the Minister of State, Department of Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, Central (Ms Winterton). My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I met with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health on 22 February. There is regular contact between our Departments at official level, both formally through the Partnership Board which meets three time a year, and informally as required.

Hercules Fleet

20. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what progress has been made in the fitting of suppressant foam to the Hercules fleet. [129318]

Mr. Ingram: The programme to fit explosive suppressant foam to the majority of the RAF Hercules fleet is ongoing. On current plans it is expected that this work will be completed around the end of the year.

Bevin Boys

21. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what progress has been made on proposals to recognise the contribution of the Bevin boys. [129319]

Derek Twigg: I met with Warwick Taylor, the vice-president of the Bevin Boys Association, on 7 February to discuss the most appropriate way to recognise the service of the Bevin Boys. Mr Taylor has since met with officials to discuss this matter further. I expect an announcement to be in made in the near future.

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is taking better to protect HM Forces from land mines in Afghanistan. [128285]

Mr. Ingram: A range of measures are taken to protect UK armed forces from both anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The best protection against mines can

be provided by a combination of appropriate equipment and robust Training, Tactics and Procedures.

The UK Task Force has an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Task Force which is skilled and well-trained for dealing with mine incidents. The UK's EOD Task Force has good knowledge of legacy minefields, and UK military personnel undertake mine awareness training.

While not designated a 'Mine Protected Vehicle' the newly procured Mastiff, a wheeled patrol vehicle with a less intimidating profile than our tracked vehicles, offers good protection against a range of threats including mines. We are rapidly procuring 100 of these vehicles for use in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and they will be delivered to Afghanistan this spring.

It is departmental policy that all troops deploying to Op Herrick are provided with Enhanced Combat Body Armour before they deploy to theatre.

This armour, as well as protecting against small-arms fire, could additionally protect against shrapnel and blast injuries.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for changes to the number of personnel deployed in Afghanistan. [129304]

Des Browne: As I explained to the House on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 619-21, the UK has decided to fill one of NATO's most pressing requirements—a manoeuvre battalion for Regional Command (South). That means that over the summer our forces in Afghanistan will increase from around 6,300 to settle at around 7,700. The current planning assumption remains that these forces are committed until 2009. I and the Chiefs of Staff agree that this commitment is manageable.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many British helicopters are available to UK forces in Afghanistan; [129429]

(2) how many British *(a)* Chinook, *(b)* Lynx and *(c)* Apache helicopters are (i) operationally available and (ii) fit to fly on a typical day in Afghanistan; [129433]

(3) for how many flying hours per day on average the British *(a)* Lynx, *(b)* Apache and *(c)* Chinook helicopters are available in Afghanistan. [129449]

Mr. Ingram: The following UK helicopters are currently based in Afghanistan: Chinook CH-47 support helicopters; Apache AH-64 attack helicopters; and Lynx light-utility helicopters. We would not expect all the helicopters to be available at any one time, due to requirements for routine maintenance, and therefore daily flying hours and availability will fluctuate. I am withholding further details as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

We continue to keep our helicopter requirements under review to ensure that we have sufficient helicopter support to meet current and anticipated tasks.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received of the effect on the operational effectiveness of Lynx helicopters in Afghanistan of warmer weather conditions. [129450]

Mr. Ingram: We recognise that all helicopters have lift or payload constraints, and we take these into account when deploying a number of different helicopters as part of a varied fleet. Aircraft can be affected by variations in temperature and weather conditions, but I am withholding the information as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Air Force: Military Bases

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* members of the Intelligence and Security Committee and *(c)* other hon. Members have visited (i) RAF Menwith Hill, (ii) RAF Molesworth, (iii) RAF Lakenheath, (iv) RAF Mildenhall, (v) RAF Croughton, (vi) RAF Fairford, (vii) RAF Fylingdales and (viii) RAF St. Mawgan since January 2000; and what the date was of each such visit. [122920]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 23 February 2007]:* Since January 2000 Defence Ministers have visited the RAF stations at Menwith Hill, Molesworth, Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Croughton, Fairford, Fylingdales and St. Mawgan on the following occasions:

Secretary of State

5 July 2001—Visit to Menwith Hill

6 January 2003—Visit to RAF Fylingdales

15 July 2005—Visit to RAF Fairford

Minister for the Armed Forces

24 February 2000—Visit to RAF Menwith Hill

26 June 2003—Attendance at a public meeting at RAF Fylingdales

19 October 2004—Visit to RAF Mildenhall

17 August 2006—Visit to RAF Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales

12 October 2006—Visit to RAF Fairford

16 October 2006—Visit to RAF Molesworth

Minister for Defence Procurement

21 July 2002—Visit to RAF Fairford

18 July 2003—RIAT Dinner at RAF Fairford

Under Secretary of State for Defence

16 July 2004—Visit to RAF Fairford

Our records also show that members of the Intelligence and Security Committee made visits to RAF Menwith Hill on 22 May 2000, 18 October 2004 and 13 July 2006. Visits by other Members of Parliament to the RAF stations include:

RAF Menwith Hill

Quentin Davies MP visited on 18 July 2001

RAF Molesworth

Jonathan Djanogly MP visited on 10 January 2003, 25 July 2003, 21 April 2006, 29 September 2006 and 16 October 2006

RAF Mildenhall

James Paice MP visited on 7 July 2006

Richard Spring MP visited on 18 January 2002, 19 October 2004 and 14 July 2006

RAF Croughton

Timothy Boswell MP visited on 26 May 2005

RAF Fairford

The right hon. James Arbuthnot MP visited on 14 July 2006

Colin Breed MP visited on 14 July 2006

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP visited on 24 September 2003 and 14 July 2006

The right hon. Iain Duncan Smith MP visited on 16 April 2003

Adam Holloway MP visited on 14 July 2006

Gerald Howarth MP visited on 15 July 2005 and 15 July 2006

Mark Lancaster MP visited on 14 July 2006

Ian Liddell-Granger MP visited on 14 July 2006

Andrew Rosindell MP visited on 15 July 2005 and 14 July 2006

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the use of military airfields in the UK. [129305]

Mr. Ingram: The number and operation of military airfields is constantly under review to ensure that the best use is made of the Defence Estate for our armed forces.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of medical care for injured service personnel; and if he will make a statement. [129310]

Derek Twigg: From 1 January to 20 March this year, Ministers had received some 50 representations from hon. Members and members of the public on the adequacy of medical care for injured service personnel.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Modern Housing Solutions call centres there are; and how many people are employed at each centre. [129685]

Derek Twigg: There is one Modern Housing Solutions helpdesk, which is located in Speke, Liverpool.

89 staff currently work at the call centre.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests for repair call outs were received by Modern Housing Solutions in each of the last 12 months. [129687]

Derek Twigg: From 21 March 2006 to 21 March 2007 the following number of response repair call outs have been made:

	Number
2006	
March	5,153
April	12,269
May	13,792
June	13,284
July	15,087
August	16,383
September	16,014
October	19,516
November	18,624
December	13,881
2007	
January	23,623
February	16,485
To 21 March	13,330

Armed Forces: Legal Profession

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel were serving with the Army legal corps in each year since 2000. [128080]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The following table shows the number of military and civilian personnel working for the Army legal service (ALS) as at 1 January each year since 2000.

Adjutant general's corps (army legal services) trained army officer and civilian strength

1 January:	*Officers*[1, 2, 3]	*Civilians*[4, 5]
2000	80	70
2001	100	60
2002	100	70
2003	100	80
2004	100	80
2005	100	90
2006	110	90
2007	120	90

[1] Figures include all AG Corps (ALS) Officers including those Officers with a rank of Colonel and above.

[2] The figures are for trained regular army officers only and therefore exclude all reservists.

[3] Only Army personnel capbadged AG ALS are included in the figures. Therefore the figures exclude those personnel from other arm/services attached to or supporting AG ALS.

[4] Civilians working in the following units are included: Director General Legal Services, Directorate of Army Legal Services, Army Prosecuting Authority (Germany), HQ Army Prosecuting Authority (UK), Office for Standards of Casework and the Officer and Soldier Complaints Authority Army Appeals Wing.

[5] Full-time equivalent staff. Counts part-time staff by the number of hours they work as a proportion of their full-time conditioned hours.

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what points Ministers have sought permission from Her Majesty the Queen for servants of the Crown to wear European Union flag unit insignia upon their uniforms. [129242]

Derek Twigg: The European Union insignia as worn is not formally a flag, but a circular patch. Approval from Her Majesty the Queen is required for the wearing of insignia which contain a crown. The European Union symbol, worn below the Union flag, does not fall into this category.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the next vehicle expected is in the future rapid effect system series after the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle; [127021]

(2) what assessment he has made of the priority accorded to *(a)* the personnel carrier and *(b)* the direct fire version in the development of future rapid effect system medium weight vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [127027]

Mr. Ingram: The Panther Command and Liaison vehicle does not form part of the future rapid effect system (FRES) programme. The FRES utility vehicle, which will carry personnel as one of its roles, is currently afforded the highest priority and is likely to be the first variant to enter service. A direct fire variant may follow; the Department is continuing to examine the requirement and options as part of the assessment phase.

Army: Manpower

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel there were in the Army in each year since 1992. [128869]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 22 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1557W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Stourbridge (Lynda Waltho).

Departments: Art Works

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on art work for its main building in 2005-06. [129723]

Derek Twigg: No works of art were bought for the Main Building, nor for any other MOD building, in 2005-06. £52,992 was spent in 2005-06 on maintenance tasks for the MOD Art Collection, including conservation, re-framing, re-hanging and photography.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regimental dinners took place in 2006; and what the total cost was of those dinners. [127537]

Derek Twigg: Information on how many regimental dinners took place in 2006 is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

All Army messes are supported by contracts that include provision for a number of functions each year, for which attendees are charged the costs of food and drink. Some of these will be regimental dinners. If a regiment wants to hold additional functions, the drink and staff costs are met by private regimental funds and not the Defence budget. It is therefore not possible to provide the total cost of regimental dinners in 2006.

Falkland Islands: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what celebrations his Department is preparing for the 25th Anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands. [129727]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave on 11 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W, to his earlier question on this subject. Preparations for the commemorations that I have outlined are now well under way.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many courts martial have been held to try the conduct of British soldiers in Iraq; and what the charges were in each case in which no legal proceedings remain active. [128793]

Mr. Ingram: Since 2003, there have been a total of 36 courts-martial held to try the conduct of British soldiers serving in Iraq.

The charges in each case are:

Courts-martial	*Charges*
2003	
0	—
2004 (10)	
1	Wounding with Intent
2	Theft
3	Theft
4	Disobeying a Lawful Command
5	Disobeying a Lawful Command
6	Disgraceful Conduct
7	2 charges of Aggravated Vehicle Taking
8	Wounding with Intent
9	Aggravated Vehicle Taking
10	Indecent Assault
2005 (12)	
11	Section 69 Conduct
12	Section 33 Using Violence
13	Theft
14	Disgraceful Conduct
15	3 charges of Disgraceful Conduct; Battery and Section 69
16	Conduct
17	Negligence
18	Section 69 Conduct
19	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
20	Battery
21	Drunkenness
22	7 charges of Murder
2006 (11)	
23	Disgraceful Conduct
24	2 charges of Racially Aggravated Harassment
25	Handling Stolen Goods
26	4 charges of Manslaughter
27	2 charges of Corruption
28	Theft

Courts-martial	Charges
29	Possession of a Controlled Drug
30	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
31	Dishonesty
33	Battery
34	2 charges of Possession of a Prohibited Weapon and 2 charges of Perversion of the Course of Public Justice
2007 to date (2)	
35	Theft
36[1]	3 charges of Negligently Performing a Duty; Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm; 2 charges of Inhuman Treatment; Manslaughter; and Perversion of the Course of Public Justice

[1] In case 36 there is an additional one charge of Inhuman Treatment which still has legal proceedings outstanding.

Marines: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Marine commandos there are; and what the planned target number for the period 2006-07 was. [129730]

Mr. Ingram: On 1 February 2007 there were 5,540 trained Royal Marines Commandos.

The requirement for Royal Marines Commandos in April 2006 was 5,970 and 6,030 in April 2007.

Note:

These figures include Regular personnel and exclude full-time reserve personnel and activated reservists.

Military Fatalities

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military fatalities have been repatriated through RAF Brize Norton in each of the last five years. [129645]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The number of military fatalities that have been repatriated through RAF Brize Norton in each of the last five years are:

	Personnel repatriated
2003	53
2004	39
2005	15
2006	50
2007 (to date)	12
Total personnel	169

Navy: Deployment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships are in service; how many were in service in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [126293]

Mr. Ingram: In August 1997 the Royal Navy had 98 ships in service. The Royal Navy currently has 75 ships in service although HMS Invincible is held at low readiness. These totals include: landing platform docks, landing platform helicopter, aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, mine countermeasures ships, river class offshore patrol vessels, inshore patrol craft, survey ships and the royal yacht.

RAF Lyneham

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what extra resources he plans to make available to RAF Lyneham when they take over responsibility for military repatriation on 1 April. [129646]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* An assessment has been made of the implications for the Station from which it was determined that the task could be absorbed within existing manpower resources. Any financial costs resulting from the ceremonies can be claimed from the Contingency Fund.

Service Personnel: South African Citizens

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1173W, on service personnel: South African citizens, what progress has been made on the officials' visit to South Africa; and if he will make a statement. [128183]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The draft South African legislation on mercenaries and membership of the armed forces of other nations has completed its parliamentary process, and is currently with the President awaiting his assent although we are unable to establish when and if this may be given. Active engagement with the South African Department of Defence is on-going and we hope to secure a date for the officials' visit at the earliest opportunity.

Type 45 Destroyers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the minimum number of Type 45 destroyers necessary to provide area air defence for the fleet; and if he will make a statement. [128577]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 290W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

Unidentified Flying Objects

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent producing the report Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region; who the author was; what the author's qualifications in this subject were; to whom the report was circulated; what actions were taken on the recommendations of the report; and if he will make a statement. [128505]

Mr. Ingram: It is not possible to provide accurate details as to the cost of producing the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena report as this was one of several tasks that were included within a single contract and detailed costings for each of these tasks is not available. However, it is estimated that the overall cost was approximately £50,000.

The author of the report was a contractor and was employed by the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) on a long-term contract. Further details of the author, including the name, are being withheld under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The report was circulated within the DIS and to other branches of the Ministry of Defence and RAF. As recommended by the report, the DIS ceased to monitor unidentified aerial phenomena sighting reports (and therefore reaped a saving in staff time) as they contained no information of Defence Intelligence interest and no further action was taken.

HEALTH

Bexley Community Health NHS Trust

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided by her Department to Bexley Care Trust for *(a)* prevention and *(b)* treatment of (i) sexually transmitted diseases, (ii) obesity, (iii) diabetes and (iv) alcoholism in each of the last five years. [126875]

Andy Burnham: All primary care trusts (PCTs), including Bexley Care Trust are responsible for meeting the overall health needs of their community from their mainstream funding—including the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, obesity, diabetes and alcoholism.

The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to PCTs separately identify £211 million in 2006-07 and £342 million in 2007-08 to support the initiatives set out in the White Paper, "Choosing Health: making healthy choices easier" (such as sexual health modernisation, action on diet, activity and obesity and alcohol interventions).

It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations. PCTs were informed of their shares of the £342 million funding but not their shares of each initiative.

Bowel Cancer Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards *(a)* establishing and *(b)* evaluating pilots of flexible sigmoidoscopy as part of bowel cancer screening for people in their fifties. [129630]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* Flexible sigmoidoscopy (FS) is a potential way of screening for bowel cancer. A large clinical trial, funded by the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK, has looked into screening healthy people for bowel cancer using FS. The final results are not expected until 2008 but early results have been very promising and have shown that this type of screening will help to prevent bowel cancer and be cost effective. However, we do not know yet how many lives it could save. Based on these promising results, the Government are now funding a pilot study at St. Mark's hospital in London to examine the feasibility of FS screening performed by specialist nurses. The pilot is inviting 2000 men and women aged 58 and 59. The study is costing £400,000, and is expected to report in 2008.

Breast Feeding

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to promote breast feeding in 2007-08. [129365]

Caroline Flint: The Department is planning a comprehensive year-round communications package, including marketing support that will be launched at the National Breast Feeding Awareness Week to be held on 13-19 May. We are in the process of developing activities such as television and radio filler advertising, updating website, and PR activity as well as developing educational and promotional materials. We are also working with UNICEF in developing joint publications on infant feeding.

The Department is continuing to work with the Food Standards Agency on the implementation of the European Union Directive on infant formula and follow-on formula. In addition, we have appointed a new National Infant Feeding Adviser, who will be actively involved in promoting breast feeding by developing activities locally to help increase breast feeding rates and supporting health professionals.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent promoting breast feeding in each year between 2002-03 and 2006-07; which organisations received such funding in each year; and for what purposes funding was provided in each year. [129366]

Caroline Flint: Since 2002, the Department has funded a range of activities promoting breast feeding and infant feeding. The following table sets out the funding provided each year for breast feeding promotion from 2002-07.

Financial year	*Departmental spend on breast feeding promotion (£)*
2002-03	280,000
2003-04	462,000
2004-05	747,000
2005-06	743,000
2006-07	729,011

Most of the funding available was spent centrally in developing promotional and educational materials, PR activities for the breast feeding campaigns, developing and updating websites, conferences and supporting the work of the National Network of Breast Feeding Co-ordinators.

In 2004-05, the Department spent approximately £350,000 in developing and distributing a resource pack for health professionals. Since 2005, the Department provided approximately £12,000 to the breast feeding network in support of developing a national helpline number on breast feeding. In addition, the Department has also provided grants to four voluntary organisations under the Section 64 Grants Scheme to promote their work on breast feeding. We have provided core grant of £13,000 for 2007-08 to the Association of Breast feeding Mothers.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the number of people in residential care homes of whom third-party top-up fees are *(a)* sought and *(b)* received; what estimate she has made of the average top-up fee paid in respect of such people; and what steps the Government are taking to prevent such fees being regressive; [124713]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to reduce the number of care home residents who are affected by third-party top-up fees; and if she will make a statement. [124717]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally in the form requested. However, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) conducted a United Kingdom wide survey of 'Care Homes For Their Care Homes For Older People in the UK' report, published in May 2005. The OFT found that the average care home in the UK had 32 places of which 29 were occupied. Of these, seven, around 24 per cent. were paid for by a combination of the local authority and a third-party top-up. The UK average third-party top-up was £65.33p a week.

The detail of contracting arrangements between local councils and care homes is a matter for local decision. The Government do not set or recommend rates at which councils contract with care homes. We think it is important that councils are able to tailor contracts to specific local circumstances. However, the Government have made available record levels of funding for social care. Since 1997, Government grants for local services, including social care, have increased by £28.4 billion or 39 per cent. in real terms.

This substantial funding is making a real difference. Although, in their annual 'Care of the Elderly: UK Market Survey 2006' report, independent market analysts Laing and Buisson reported that around half of local authorities increased the fees they pay to care homes by less than 3.5 per cent. This follows a three year period, 2002-03 to 2004-05 during which Laing and Buisson reported that payments increased at an unprecedented rate. This is clear evidence that local authorities have been using the additional resources provided by central Government to increase payments to care homes and rebalance the care home market.

Care Homes: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential care home places there are in each strategic health authority (SHA); and what the average cost per place is in each SHA. [126532]

Andy Burnham: I am informed by the chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that data on the number of care homes and places are not collected by strategic health authority area. CSCI is able to supply information on the number of care homes and places in its regions, of which there are nine in England. These data are shown in the following table.

Number of registered adult care and nursing homes and places by CSCI region

Region	*Homes*	*Places*
East Midlands	1,605	40,809
Eastern	1,859	45,933
London	2,012	40,314
North East	948	25,723
North West	2,237	61,631
South East	3,642	79,418
South West	2,634	56,479
West Midlands	1,931	44,446
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,713	47,967
Totals	18,581	442,720

Note:
Numbers include residential homes for older people and for younger adults (aged 18-65).
Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database—snapshot on 13 March 2007.

Information on the costs of care home places is not collected centrally.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking *(a)* to reduce the decline in and *(b)* to increase the numbers of women attending for cervical screening. [129613]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2094-95W.

Community Health Services: Tolls

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the potential impact of road pricing on funding allocated to community health workers. [128683]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply and refer to my answer given today to question UIN 126159.

Doctors

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of levels of motivation of doctors in the NHS. [126626]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department takes the welfare of all national health service employees very seriously. Morale among NHS staff can be difficult to gauge; however, the Healthcare Commission NHS annual staff surveys in 2005 indicated that staff remain generally satisfied, with job satisfaction identified as 73.78 per cent. across all staff, 69.32 per cent. within acute trusts and all medical staff in acute trusts 73.31 per cent.

Health Services: Greater London

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has carried out equality impact assessments of *(a)* the decision to

close the Maudsley hospital 24-hour emergency clinic, *(b)* the reduction in the budget of the South London and Maudsley NHS hospital trust for 2007-08, *(c)* the reduction in the budget of the Southwark primary trust for 2007-08 and *(d)* the reduction in the budget of the Lambeth primary care trust for 2007-08. [130043]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answers provided, 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 858-59W and 861-62W.

Health Services: Gambling

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to provide additional services to treat gambling addiction in areas approved for the licensing of a large casino, with particular reference to Solihull. [119005]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Problem gamblers, who are entitled to treatment under the national health service, can access services in primary care and secondary care including specialised mental health and addiction services. There are currently no central plans to provide additional services in areas approved for the licensing of a large casino. However, we will continue to be responsible for assessing and commissioning services to meet the needs of the populations that they serve.

Heart Diseases

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average period of time was which patients have waited for a myocardial perfusion scan in *(a)* West Lancashire, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [128227]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested. The table shows the number of people waiting more than six and 13 weeks for a routine myocardial perfusion study.

Waiting times information for routine myocardial perfusion study, August 2006

Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*Number waiting six to 13 weeks*	*Number waiting over 13 weeks*
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital National Health Service Trust	0	0
RXL	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	63	256
RXN	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	101	85
Q31	All North West Strategic Health Authority	716	1,715
	All England	3,981	4,298

Source:
Department of Health, Diagnostic Census.

Heart Diseases: Irish

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of research on the risk faced by Irish people in England dying prematurely from heart disease compared to other groups; and what steps are being taken by her Department to address this risk. [128207]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Health Survey for England 2004 supplement, The Health of Minority Ethnic Groups, collected information from the seven largest minority ethnic groups in England including Black Caribbean, Black African, Indian, Pakistan, Bangladeshi, Chinese and Irish. The general population survey reported that cardiovascular disorder diagnosed by a doctor was most prevalent in Irish men and women.

The survey also looked at risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD). Significantly, it shows that Irish men were more obese and that their prevalence for smoking and drinking was higher than the general population. Irish women have higher blood pressure and both drink and smoke more than the general population. These are all risk factors for CVD which includes coronary heart disease (CHD).

The Department has an overarching target to improve mortality for CVD which incorporates a specific target for tackling health inequalities:

> To improve the health of the population by substantially reducing the mortality rates by 2010, (from the ONS baseline, 1995-97) from heart disease and stroke related diseases by at least 40 per cent. in people under 75, with at least a 40 per cent. reduction in the inequalities gap between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole.

Those areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators have been designated Spearhead primary care trusts. They are responsible for designing and delivering services to meet the needs of their local population, taking account of issues such as ethnic mix. Latest data show continued improvements in CVD mortality inequalities with a 27.9 per cent. reduction in the absolute CVD inequality gap. This has been achieved by promoting healthier lifestyles and with the increased distribution of preventative drugs such as statins.

Kidney Diseases

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Coventry. [129033]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no national registry of chronic kidney disease (CKD). Over 99.9 per cent. of people with CKD will be under the care of general practitioners and not be seen by secondary or tertiary hospital services.

At general practice level, the maintenance of a practice register of patients with CKD became a part of the quality and outcomes framework in April 2006,

which in due course should mean that a very rich dataset will be available for every community in the country.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to encourage early treatment to prevent renal failure. [129034]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Part 2 of the "National Service Framework for Renal Services" sets out the Department's strategy for early identification and management of chronic kidney disease, and for slowing down its progression. This has been reinforced by the introduction of a set of indicators relating to chronic kidney disease in the quality and outcomes framework, which rewards general practitioners for developing services in this area.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has for the long-term provision of dialysis facilities. [129035]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Part 1 "Dialysis and Transplantation—The National Service Framework for Renal Services: Dialysis and Transplantation", which is available in the Library, sets out the Department's vision for the sufficiency and quality of dialysis services in the national health service. Standard 4 of the National Service Framework aims to improve the outcomes for people on dialysis and maximise their rehabilitation, quality of life and survival.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has plans to increase the provision and availability of home dialysis equipment. [129036]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Choice is acknowledged as being of paramount importance in the "National Service Framework for Renal Services", and that choice includes home dialysis. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has recommended that patients should be offered the choice of home haemodialysis, where clinically indicated, as a cost-effective alternative to haemodialysis in a hospital or satellite unit. The Department is currently hosting a seminar to promote the availability of home dialysis in the national health service.

Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why the best practice guide Positive Steps: Supporting Race Equality in Mental Health Care of 21 February 2007 does not include the Irish as a specific category; and whether this practice is consistent with the categories recommended in the Department's guide to ethnic monitoring. [128176]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is committed to the promotion of equality in the national health service, for staff, patients and the public. Delivering race equality (DRE) in mental health is a comprehensive five-year action plan for tackling racial inequality in mental health care.

The definition of black minority ethnic (BME) in the DRE action plan is used to refer to all minority ethnic groups in England. It does not only refer to skin colour but to people of all groups who may experience discrimination and disadvantage, such as those of Irish origin, Mediterranean origin and East Europe migrants.

Most of the Positive Steps guide is applicable to all these groups. The guide is intended to expand and develop over time. It currently includes information specific to two BME communities. Information on others, including the Irish, will be added shortly.

Mid-Essex Hospital Trust: Vacancies

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will clarify her answer of 20 March 2007 to question 127533, tabled by the hon. Member for West Chelmsford, on vacancies at the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust. [129612]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect estimates of projected vacancy levels by trust. It is for local national health service providers in consultation with commissioners, to estimate their work force requirements to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

The national three-month vacancy survey due to be carried out at the end of this month will show how many vacancies have been unfilled for three months in each trust in England. The results of this survey will be published in the summer.

Midwives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered midwives *(a)* left the NHS, *(b)* returned to the NHS and *(c)* were made redundant in each of the last 12 years for which records are available; and how many of these posts were not then filled or replaced. [127277]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of registered midwives who left the national health service in the last 12 years is not collected centrally.

Since 1999 over 1,200 midwives had returned to the NHS as at March 2004.

Information on redundancies was collected for the first time last year. There were nine compulsory midwife redundancies in England in the nine months up to 31 December 2006.

This needs to be seen in the context of the last census showing there were 24,808 midwives employed in the NHS in England, an increase of 2,423 (10.8 per cent.) since 1997.

Information on how many of these posts were not then filled or replaced is not collected centrally.

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives left the profession in the last three years for which figures are available. [127549]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of

independent midwives who are likely to leave the profession as a result of the new rules requiring professional indemnity insurance. [127550]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No estimate has been made centrally. All registered health care professionals will be required to have professional indemnity insurance to protect the public in the event of a claim for negligence. While it is important to consider independent midwives, especially in relation to extended choice and diversity of provision, it cannot be at the cost of the protection of the woman.

NHS Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1719-20W, on NHS expenditure, whether her Department has discussed the consistency of methodology for calculating health expenditure per capita with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government. [123529]

Andy Burnham: In submitting the data, officials from the Department and the Welsh Assembly Government did not hold specific discussions on the comparability of the data.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* expenditure per unweighted head of each primary care trust and *(b)* (i) in-year and (ii) accumulated financial position was of each primary care trust for (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05 and (C) 2005-06. [124931]

Andy Burnham: The information on expenditure per unweighted head of each primary care trust (PCT) has been placed in the Library. Data on the in-year financial position for individual PCTs for the years requested are not held centrally. PCTs manage their resources on an annual basis, therefore the year-end financial position represents the accumulated position. This information has also been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* accumulated financial position of the NHS and *(b)* the in-year financial position of the NHS was in each year since 1996-97. [124932]

Andy Burnham: The national health service manages its resources on an annual basis, therefore the year-end financial position represents the accumulated position. The in-year financial position can only be provided from 2002-03 as this the first year that adjustments for prior year performance were made. These figures are presented in the following table:

£ million

	Total NHS net surplus/(deficit)	*Total NHS in-year surplus/(deficit)*
1996-97	(459)	n/a
1997-98	(121)	n/a
1998-99	(18)	n/a
1999-2000	(129)	n/a
2000-01	112	n/a
2001-02	71	n/a
2002-03	96	(5)
2003-04	73	68
2004-05	(221)	(298)
2005-06	(547)	(407)
2006-07[1]	(437)	269

[1] Quarter three forecast.

Notes:

1. The figures in the table exclude foundation trusts.
2. The 2006-07 forecast figures exclude the £450 million savings identified by SHAs through their continued prudent management of central NHS programme funds.

Source:

NHS Summarisation Schedules 1996-97 to 2005-06 and NHS financial monitoring returns 2006-07

NHS: Tolls

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the weekly cost to the national health service of the introduction of road user charging. [126159]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

No decisions have been taken on a national road pricing scheme. The Government are working with local authorities interested in establishing local pricing schemes to address local congestion problems, and the first of these are expected to be in place in four to five years. Any decision on a national road pricing scheme will only be taken on the evidence of these schemes.

Given that no decisions have been taken on whether to introduce national road pricing and if so what form it might take, it is not possible to estimate the potential impact on specific groups or sectors at this stage.

Nurses: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent school nurses there were in Cumbria in each year between 1997 and 2006. [128732]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer to the right hon. Member to the answer given on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 850W.

Pinderfields

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from the hon. Member for Normanton (Ed Balls) on Pinderfields hospital in the last 12 months. [129773]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the former Minister of State for Quality and Patient Safety, (Jane Kennedy), met with my hon. Friends the Members for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett), Normanton (Ed Balls), Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper), Selby (Mr. Grogan), and Elmet (Colin Burgon) on 29 March 2006.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met with my hon. Friends the Members for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett), Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper),

Wakefield (Mary Creagh) and my noble Friend Lord Lofthouse on 21 November 2006.

Smoking: Legislation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish guidance on the enforcement and implementation of the smoke-free legislation. [128917]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on enforcing the public smoking ban. [129211]

Caroline Flint: The Department published guidance on smoke-free legislation for businesses on 23 March.

The guidance entitled "Everything you need to prepare for the new smoke-free law on 1 July 2007" includes support materials to assist business to be ready for implementation, including no-smoking signs. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The guidance will be posted during April to businesses in England with employees, and is also available on the Smokefree England website at www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

The Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) has published on 23 March guidance for local council regulatory officers to support the successful and consistent implementation of smoke-free legislation across England. The LACORS guidance was developed in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and in consultation with the Department. The guidance has been placed in the Library.

Speech Therapy

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS institutions employ speech and language therapists; and what proportion of such institutions decided not to recruit newly qualified practitioners in 2006. [127667]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of speech and language therapists employed by primary care trusts has been placed in the Library.

If any of these institutions have decided not to recruit newly qualified practitioners in 2006 it is not recorded centrally.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 27 March 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cambodia: Forestry

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department *(a)* provides and *(b)* plans to provide support to assist reform of the forestry sector in Cambodia. [129565]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provides £13 million over five years to a natural resource management and livelihoods project in Cambodia managed by the Danish development agency Danida. Under this programme £1.2 million has been allocated to support the Forestry Administration to implement a forestry sector action plan. This will help put in place a supportive policy and regulatory environment for more sustainable management of forests.

Cambodia: Politics and Government

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides for civil society and non-governmental organisations in Cambodia. [129567]

Mr. Thomas: Six non-government organisations (NGOs) receive funding from DFID's Civil Society Challenge Fund for activities in Cambodia. These are Christian Outreach, Health Unlimited, Landmine Disability Support, Cambodia Trust, Ockendon International, and World Vision. Total funding for these projects amounts to almost £2.5 million. Mines Advisory Group also receives funding for its projects to raise awareness of the dangers of mines and to support mine clearance.

DFID's health and HIV programmes also fund NGOs to support the delivery of Government services. Under the 'Health Sector Support Project', Save the Children Australia, Swiss Red Cross, CARE Australia, and Health Net International receive funding to manage the delivery of primary health care services. DFID also supports Population Services International (PSI) to promote and distribute condoms under the national HIV strategy; and the NGOs World Education and Co-operation for Sustainable Cambodian Society to provide education about HIV/AIDS. Local NGOs working on HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support also receive funding.

The DFID Livelihoods Programme, implemented through Danish Co-operation (Danida), will agree contracts with a number of NGOs to implement a £7 million civil society component of a larger Danida Livelihoods and Natural Resources programme.

European Development Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of the *(a)* European Development Fund and *(b)* International Development Association. [126873]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is constantly reviewing the performance of organisations to which it gives money. We are trying new ways of assessing the effectiveness of multilateral development organisations in contributing towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to inform our aid allocation decisions. This work includes both quantitative and qualitative assessments of the effectiveness of the European Development Fund and the International Development Association. This work is due to be completed towards the second half of the year.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Select Committees: Witnesses

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Leader of the House what assessment he has made of the merits of requiring witnesses to take an oath before giving evidence to Select Committees. [129363]

Mr. Straw: All select committees have the power to take oral evidence on oath (administered, under Standing Order No. 132, by the Chairman or the Clerk of the Committee). It is not usual for such Committees, other than Committees on private or hybrid Bills, to take evidence on oath although this is done on occasion. The Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Code set the requirements for Ministers and civil servants who give evidence to Select Committees.

I have made no specific assessment of the merits of Committees taking evidence on oath more widely. It is a matter on which each Committee is best placed to take a view in the circumstances of the individual case.

Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to his answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 895W, on Departments: trade unions, if he will ask *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to change their policy on answering questions on official meetings in respect of the question from the hon. Member for Maidenhead regarding meetings with trade union representatives in 2006. [130210]

Mr. Straw: No. Ministers are individually responsible for their own answers, which will inevitably vary between Departments.

WALES

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)*

funding advertorials in newspapers and publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic of each was. [129939]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Coastal Areas: Access

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to include provisions for coastal access for walkers in the proposed Marine Bill. [126833]

Barry Gardiner: The Government's rural manifesto said that action to improve access to the coast would be a priority. We have not yet made any decision on how to take this forward. Natural England has been carrying out detailed research and has recently recommended that the Government should introduce new legislation to enable Natural England to align a "coastal corridor" around the whole coast that people could enjoy with confidence and certainty. We are considering Natural England's advice and intend to issue a public consultation document in the spring.

Departments: Biofuels

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to contribute to meeting the Government's targets on the use of biofuels. [129667]

Ian Pearson: A Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will be introduced in April 2008 which will require 5 per cent. of fuel sold in the UK to come from a renewable source by 2010.

A number of companies are building, or planning to build, biofuel processing plants in the United Kingdom (UK) which will use UK-grown crops such as oilseed rape, wheat and sugar beet as feedstocks.

Farmers can claim the single payment for biofuel crops grown on set-aside land or where the €45 per hectare energy aid payment is claimed for crops on non-set-aside land.

We are also developing carbon and sustainability standards to encourage supply of fuels giving the greatest environmental benefits. We are pressing the EU to take a lead in establishing internationally agreed standards in this area.

Inland Waterways: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent representations he has received on reductions in British Waterways' grant and its likely effects on the canal system; [130360]

(2) what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions he has had with British Waterways and the effect on its budget of the reduction in planned maintenance of canals. [130363]

Barry Gardiner: The Government have received representations from British Waterways as well as a wide range of hon. Members and key stakeholders following reductions in British Waterways' grant. The representations have taken the form of meetings, correspondence and parliamentary questions. In particular, I met a number of hon. Members and stakeholders at the Parliamentary Waterways Group (PWG) on 12 December 2006 and a range of inland waterways representatives and press at the London Boat Show on 11 January 2007.

In the last six months, I have met British Waterways six times in my role as Inland Waterways Minister, including at PWG and the Boat Show. Discussions have included funding and delivery of shared strategic objectives.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* has been spent in the last five years and *(b)* is expected to be spent in the next five years on canal systems, broken down by canal. [130361]

Barry Gardiner: The following table provides information on the amount spent by British Waterways on canal systems in England and Wales since 2004. Information on spending is not held centrally on a canal-by-canal basis and, therefore, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

England and Wales

£ million

	31 March 2004 Actual	*31 March 2005 Actual*	*31 March 2006 Actual*	*31 March 2007 Forecast*
Core Waterway[1]	52.4	54.3	60.2	59.4
Major Works[2]	41.9	28.0	31.4	25.1
Total	94.3	82.3	91.6	84.5

[1] Routine spend on infrastructure, for example, replacing lock gates and maintenance and associated overhead costs.

[2] For example, repairs and maintenance to principal assets such as bridge repairs, lock chamber repairs, embankments and aqueducts, and culverts.

Comparable figures for spending prior to 2004 are not available due to changes to British Waterways' accounting and computing systems carried out in 2003.

Decisions on the amount spent on future funding for British Waterways canal systems from 2008 onwards will be informed by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review settlement.

Information on canal systems not maintained by British Waterways is not held by my Department.

River Wear

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on which parts of the River Wear voluntary access agreements have been reached on *(a)* both river banks and *(b)* a single river bank; [129670]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of voluntary access agreements covering only a single river bank on providing effective access to the River Wear. [129671]

Barry Gardiner: On the River Wear, 9 km of access, from Houghall to the Sands, has been negotiated through the voluntary access project managed by the Environment Agency. All of this has the agreement of landowners on both banks.

The voluntary access project delivered over 70 km of access on four rivers. Of this, only 200 m on the River Mersey is with one river bank owner. There is no evidence to suggest that single bank access is likely to be a feature of many agreements and no assessment of the impact of such access has been made.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what legal advice his Department has received on blue badge holders parking in loading bays; [130244]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities in relation to blue badge holders and parking in loading bays. [130245]

Gillian Merron: The rules about using the blue badge in a loading/unloading bay are contained in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Exemptions for Disabled Persons) (England) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000/683). This is supplemented by guidance issued to local authorities and badge holders which conveys the Department's policy, which is to prohibit parking by badge holders where there is a ban on loading or unloading.

The Department's legal section has recently reviewed the 2000 regulations on this specific aspect and confirmed that they meet the Department's policy intention.

Cycling: Pilot Schemes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what lessons have been learned from the six cycling demonstration towns. [129403]

Mr. Tom Harris: The cycling demonstration towns project is now at the halfway stage so it is too soon to assess the full impacts and lessons learned. However, the key lessons learned so far are:

- the success of the project will primarily rest on commitment from senior local authority politicians and officers;
- that commitment needs to extend beyond the lifetime of the project;
- the towns' project managers required support and guidance in the early stages particularly on design of infrastructure and signage;
- funding can unlock significant contributions from developers on cycling infrastructure adding further value to the project;
- the towns that have implemented a co-ordinated approach are yielding the best results.

Departments: Internet

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which websites are funded by his Department. [129077]

Gillian Merron: The websites funded by the Department and its Agencies are listed as follows.

Website	*Web address*
About Transport Direct	www.transportdirect.gov.uk
Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB)	www.aaib.gov.uk
Arrive Alive	www.arrivealive.info
Bus Priority Resource Pack	www.buspriority.org
Car Fuel Data	www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk
CFIT: Commission for integrated transport	www.cfit.gov.uk
Cyclesense	www.cyclesense.net
Cyclesmart	www.cyclesmart.org
Department for Transport	www.dft.gov.uk
DfT Matrix	www.dft-matrix.net
DPTAC: Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	www.dptac.gov.uk
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	www.dvla.gov.uk
Driving Standards Agency	www.dsa.gov.uk
Drugdrive	www.drugdrive.com
DVLA Online	https://www.dvlaonline.gov.uk/Homepage.asp
DVLA Personalised Registrations	www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk
DVLA.gov.uk/vehiclelicences	www.vehiclelicences.gov.uk
DVO Group (Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group) e-Community	www.ecommunities.dft.gov.uk
Electronic Service Delivery of Abnormal Loads (ESDAL)	www.esdal.com
e-Tendering	https://www.prep.dft.bravosolution.com/web/login.shtml
Freight best practice	www.freightbestpractice.org.uk
Government Car and Despatch Agency	www.gcda.gov.uk
HA Environmental Management System (HAEMS)	Not yet launched
Hedgehogs	www.hedgehogs.gov.uk
Highway Code	www.highwaycode.gov.uk
Highways Agency	www.highways.gov.uk
ITS Radar	www.itsradar.co.uk
Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB)	www.maib.gov.uk

Website	Web address
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	www.mcga.gov.uk
MAVIS Forum	www.mobility-centres.org.uk
MOT info	www.motinfo.gov.uk
ODS Databank	www.odsdatabank.com
Partner:NET	www.la-partnernet.org.uk
Pass Plus	www.passplus.org.uk
Payroll Services e-Community	www.ecommunities.dft.gov.uk
Primary School Teaching Resource	www.databases.dft.gov.uk/primary
RAil Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB)	www.raib.gov.uk
Research Compendium	www.ha-research.gov.uk
Research Database	http://www.rmd.dft.gov.uk/
Road Safety Resources database	www.databases.dft.gov.uk/roadsafety/
School Lesson Plans Database	www.databases.dft.gov.uk/lessonplans
Secondary School Teaching Resource	www.databases.dft.gov.uk/secondary
Standards for Highways	www.standardsforhighways.co.uk
Sustainable School Travel Database	www.databases.dft.gov.uk/schools/
The Academy	www.themotorcycleacademy.co.uk
The Red Ensign Group	www.redensigngroup.org
Theory Tests	www.theory-tests.co.uk
THINK!	www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk
THINK! Seat belts	www.thinkseatbelts.com
Traffic England	www.trafficengland.com
Transec (Transport Security) e-Community	www.ecommunities.dft.gov.uk
Transport Direct	www.transportdirect.info
Transport Office	www.transportoffice.gov.uk
TSS Plans Registry	www.tssplansregistry.co.uk
UK Ship Register	http://www.ukshipregister.co.uk/
UTMC: Urban Traffic Management and Control	www.utmc.gov.uk
VCA	www.vca.gov.uk
Vehicle Licensing Online (Direct.gov.uk/taxdisc)	www.direct.gov.uk/taxdisc
Video Information Highway	www.vihengland.org
VOSA Corporate site	www.vosa.gov.uk
Water Freight Grant Environmental Benefit Calculator	www.dft-eb-calculator.co.uk
WebDAS (Departures from Standards)—Planned	Not yet launched
WebTAG: Transport Analysis Guidance	www.webtag.org.uk
What if?	www.ask-what-if.com
ActOnCO2	www.dft.gov.uk/actonco2
Heavy Goods	www.heavygoodvehicle.com
Driving for work	www.dft.gov.uk/drivingforwork
Tempro	www.tempro.org.uk
Bikeability	www.bikeability.org.uk
Cycling England	www.cyclingengland.co.uk
Bike for All[1]	www.bikeforall.net
Query	www.collisionreporting.gov.uk
Supplier portal	http://dft.g2h.info
Within Reach	http://www.within-reach.org.uk

[1] Bike for All is only part funded—50 per cent.

EC Transport Policy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which division of his Department is leading engagement with EU authorities to establish a cross-border data sharing process for criminal and administrative matters. [129292]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department's Europe and International Division has responsibility for co-ordinating UK policy on cross-border enforcement of traffic offences.

Exhaust Emissions: EC Action

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's position is on the EU proposals to limit car emissions to 130 g of carbon dioxide per km by 2012. [127311]

Dr. Ladyman: We agree with the European Commission's conclusion that legislation on car efficiency is necessary. The target should be challenging but achievable. A target for average new car tailpipe CO_2 emissions of 130 g/km is, in principle, around the right level. But more work will be necessary to examine the feasibility and impacts of this target (including full impact assessments

and consultation) before making any final decisions. Similarly, there will need to be careful consideration of how the target should be structured. We will continue to engage actively in discussions at the EU level, and we will also be calling on the European Commission to develop longer term targets in order to give the car industry greater certainty.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate *(a)* the number of cars registered in a non-EU or non-EEA country being used on the roads in the United Kingdom and *(b)* the number of such vehicles which have been so used for more than 12 months. [129073]

Dr. Ladyman: Foreign registered vehicles that are temporarily brought into the United Kingdom by overseas residents are usually exempt from UK registration and licensing. The exemptions state that a vehicle which is properly registered and taxed in its home country may be used by the visitor for up to six months in 12 without being subject to domestic registration and licensing requirements.

Any vehicle used in this country for more than six months in any 12 has to be registered and licensed in the normal way.

There is therefore no means to estimate the number of foreign registered vehicles which may be in circulation in the United Kingdom at any one time.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many foreign registered vehicles entered the UK in each of the last 15 years, broken down by port of entry. [129261]

Dr. Ladyman: This Department does not hold the information requested.

Motorway Service Areas

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to bring to a conclusion the review of policy for service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all purpose trunk roads in England; and if he will make a statement; [130223]

(2) when he expects the Highways Agency to report to him on draft revised guidance following the consultation on policy for service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all purpose trunk roads in England; [130224]

(3) how long he expects the consultation period to be for the revised proposals on policy for service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all purpose trunk roads in England; and when he expects to issue final policy guidance on these matters; [130225]

(4) what the final timetable is for the completion of the remaining stages of the review of policy for service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all purpose trunk roads in England. [130229]

Dr. Ladyman: A 12-week public consultation on 'The Review of Policy for Service Areas and other Roadside Facilities on Motorways and All Purpose Trunk Roads' was launched on 16 November 2006 and ended on 8 February 2007.

The Highways Agency is now preparing a report of the responses to this initial consultation and expects to publish it by Easter. A draft policy will then be produced which will be subject to a further six-week public consultation in line with Cabinet Office guidelines.

The aim is to publish the final policy by the autumn.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the time taken to undertake the Highways Agency's consultation on policy for service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all purpose trunk roads in England. [130230]

Dr. Ladyman: In line with Cabinet Office guidance, the Highways Agency was obliged to consult fully with relevant stakeholders, collect sufficient evidence and to analyse this in order to produce a draft revised policy for further public consultation.

Parking Offences: Schools

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to enforce the parking restrictions on zig-zag markings outside schools. [130343]

Gillian Merron: Local authorities have the power under the Road Traffic Act 1984 to make Traffic Regulation Orders that, among other things, put in place parking restrictions such as zig-zag markings outside schools. Where a local authority has Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) power it may enforce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Otherwise it is for the police to enforce.

Public Transport: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the role of his Department is in respect of the London Works project; and if he will make a statement. [129572]

Gillian Merron: The Government welcome the development by Transport for London of London Works to assist London's highway authorities in the management of works in the highway across London. The Department for Transport has had no role in its development.

Public Transport: Security

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to improve security on *(a)* underground trains, *(b)* overland trains, *(c)* rail terminals and *(d)* bus terminals since 2005. [129164]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department is security regulator for transport industries including the rail network in Great Britain and the London underground. We maintain a risk-driven protective security regime based on assessments of the terrorist threat prepared by the Security Service.

The London attacks in July 2005 necessitated the raising of security measures to their highest level, with a package of supplementary measures deployed by rail and underground operators. In response to the London attacks we also developed, in consultation with industry and the police, specific best practice guidance for the bus and coach sector.

The situation is kept under constant review to ensure that measures remain relevant. We also continue to look at what further practical measures can be taken to protect transport targets.

It is not appropriate to discuss the specific details of our current or any potential future counter-terrorist security measures on public transport to avoid potentially compromising their effectiveness. However, it is important to remember that our rail and underground networks, and bus services, are open systems and it is therefore impracticable to impose the sort of security regimes seen at our airports.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has made available to *(a)* Network Rail, *(b)* Transport for London and *(c)* British Transport Police to improve transport security since 2005. [129165]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Strategic Rail Authority provided Network Rail with £16.5 million for the capital costs of the London major stations CCTV upgrade. The upgrade comprised the provision of digital recording systems and the replacement of analogue camera systems with digital ones.

Transport for London (TfL) is funded via a block grant and for 2006-07 this will be a total £2.38 billion, a rise of over £700 million from 2003-04. Within this grant it is an operational decision for TfL to determine funding for security.

Most of the funding BTP receives is from the rail industry; however, the DfT provides capital funding. The capital funding BTP received from DfT in 2005-06 and 2006-07 amounted to £12.5 million and £10 million respectively. In addition to this the Department provided £3.6 million as a contribution to the costs of dealing with the London bombings in July 2005. This money was used to fund a variety of capital developments and improvements such as communications and information systems, fleet replacement and modernisation and accommodation improvements. All of this expenditure improved the capacity of BTP to detect and prevent crime and to improve the security and safety of the railways.

Rail Link: Penrith-Keswick

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made with his consideration of plans for a new railway line between Penrith and Keswick in Cumbria; and if he will make a statement. [129864]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has not, to my knowledge, received a business case in relation to this proposal. Without a business case it is not possible to consider the proposal or make any kind of statement. The business case would need to detail the scheme and the proposed sources of funding and demonstrate that it offered value for money.

Railways: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on London rail services. [125894]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State and the Mayor spoke about London rail services on 21 March in the context of discussions regarding the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Railways: Passengers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected change in train passenger numbers over the next 10 years is; and what steps his Department plans to take to deal with increases in such estimates. [129678]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport is in the course of assessing the future volume of train passenger numbers as part of the analysis underpinning the forthcoming High Level Output Specification, which will specify the improvements that the Secretary of State wishes to secure over the period 2009-14.

Railways: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the recent disruption to the rail network in the Portsmouth area. [130133]

Mr. Tom Harris: Stagecoach South Western has had detailed discussions with Network Rail regarding the continued engineering overrun in the Portsmouth area.

Stagecoach South Western has made changes to its timetable to ensure that it is able to maintain the best service given the restrictions to access.

This also applies to Southern and First Great Western regarding their services in the Portsmouth area.

Railways: South East Region

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the strategy for reducing overcrowding on trains in the South East is; and if he will make a statement. [130103]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government will continue to take steps to increase the capacity of the railways through the franchising process, and through the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) and the longer term strategy framework, both of which will be published this summer 2007.

Additional capacity can be provided in a number of different ways and the rail industry will respond to the HLOS in October 2007 with proposals for optimum interventions tailored to specific routes.

Railways: Thames Valley

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1455W, on Railways: Thames Valley, on what basis future likely passenger demand is being assessed; what methods are being used to derive these figures; and whether data for the work are being derived from passenger surveys. [130239]

Mr. Tom Harris: Passenger demand forecasts for the railway are derived from industry standard forecasting tools which draw upon forecasts of population and employment changes, economic growth and other related factors. Demand data upon which future forecasts are based are derived from analysis of ticket sales and passenger counts and surveys, such as the London Area Travel Surveys (LATS).

Railways: Timetables

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Network Rail has a statutory duty to publish a national rail timetable in hard copy. [130404]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail's network licence places an obligation on it to "publish or procure the publication of a national timetable of railway passenger services".

Network Rail currently discharges this obligation by producing a national rail timetable in A5 format.

Any decision to change the content, publication and distribution of the national rail timetable is the responsibility of Network Rail.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for an answer to her question:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
[redacted]

Rapid Transit Systems

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the development of ultra-light rail systems in new sustainable communities. [129112]

Mr. Tom Harris: Department for Transport Ministers regularly meet with ministerial colleagues in the course of performing their ministerial duties. It is not the normal practice of the Government to release details of meetings.

Renault Cars

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many representations have been received by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency requesting the recall of Renault Clio/Campus cars in relation to concerns about design of the bonnet catch mechanism; and what steps are being taken; [130186]

(2) whether his Department plans to investigate reports of a design fault to the bonnet mechanism of Renault Clios manufactured between 1998 and 2005. [130187]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has received two requests to recall Renault Clio II vehicles to address concerns about the bonnet catches.

VOSA has checked both the main catch and the safety catch of Renault Clio II vehicles and has found no evidence of a design or construction defect. The evidence indicates that any problems are most likely to be due to inadequate maintenance and incorrect closing of the bonnet.

We understand that Renault has nevertheless agreed to contact all Renault Clio II customers as soon as is practicable inviting them to have a free check carried out at their nearest Renault dealership. We also understand that where poor maintenance is detected—and the bonnet catch mechanism has suffered resulting damage—Renault will replace the mechanism free of charge as a gesture of good will.

Road Charging

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1456W, on tolls, whether a *(a)* privacy impact assessment and *(b)* regulatory impact assessment has been produced on the implementation of EU Directive 2004/52/EC. [129869]

Dr. Ladyman: A regulatory impact assessment has been produced and will be published on the Department for Transport website shortly. The parts of this directive that have been transposed into UK law are about technology and have no impact on privacy. The aspects of the Directive concerning the European Electronic Tolling Service, or EETS, have yet to be defined by the European Commission.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library the most recent appraisal summary table for each road scheme in the targeted programme of improvements. [124399]

Dr. Ladyman: I have arranged for appraisal summary tables for each road scheme in the targeted programme of improvements to be placed in the House Library.

Street Clutter

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to reduce street clutter erected by local highway authorities. [129089]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport recognises that over-provision or poor design of signs and street furniture can lead to clutter. We therefore encourage local authorities to avoid unnecessary street clutter through our Local Transport Plan guidance and through the design guidance we provide. Guidance on minimising clutter is given in the Traffic Signs Manual and in the "Streets for All" guides produced with English Heritage.

We are strengthening our guidance in new publications such as the Manual for Streets, which will encourage a fresh approach to residential street design; good practice guidance on the use of pedestrian guardrails; and guidance on how to reduce the impact of traffic management measures on the street scene.

Trains: Bicycles

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the provision of reasonable facilities for cyclists on board new railway and light rail and tram rolling stock and at stations. [129404]

Mr. Tom Harris: The responsibility for the design of new rolling stock and the carriage of bikes on trains rests with individual train operating companies (TOCs). All TOCs currently carry folding bikes on trains at all times and the Government encourage TOCs to carry non-folding bikes whenever possible. Non-folding bikes are not carried on light rail services.

We also encourage all train operators to provide secure cycle parking at stations in 2004-05. DfT funded a Strategic Rail Authority project to provide an additional 2,500 cycle parking spaces with shelters and CCTV at over 100 stations as part of a project to improve cycle parking capacity on the rail network.

We have asked Cycling England, our advisory body on cycling to report on ways to better integrate bike and rail travel. It is due to report later this year.

Transport: Schools

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he provides on school travel plans; and what resources are available from his Department for implementing the guidance. [129402]

Gillian Merron: Guidance on the development and implementation of school travel plans was included in 'Travelling to School: a good practice guide', published by the Department for Transport in September 2003. Additional guidance is provided by school travel advisers and regional school travel advisers.

As part of the 'Travelling to School' project, the Department for Transport and Department for Education and Skills are providing £7.5 million a year joint funding to local authorities to enable them to employ a network of around 250 school travel advisers, who work with schools to help them develop and implement school travel plans. The school travel advisers are supported by regional school travel advisers.

In addition, DfES is providing up to £20 million a year for small capital grants for schools with approved school travel plans (£5,000 for a typical primary and £10,000 for a typical secondary school).

Transport: Urban Areas

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the comparative safety record of the operation of lightweight trams, light rail and buses in urban areas. [129111]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government annually record and publish information concerning safety incidents in relation to the operation of lightweight trams, light rail and buses.

For specific public transport schemes for which departmental funding is required, safety issues are also integral to the New Approach To Appraisal (NATA) process when assessing the benefits of the proposal.

SCOTLAND

Budget

7. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the impact of the Budget on Scotland. [128981]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues. My right hon. Friend's Budget last week is a good Budget for Scotland and a good Budget for all of the UK. It tackles our long-term challenges and has been welcomed publicly by key Scottish industries.

13. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Treasury following the latest Budget statement as it affects Scotland. [128987]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have regular discussions with Treasury Ministers on a range of issues.

Post Office Network

8. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the future of the post office network in Scotland. [128982]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on a range of issues.

15. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the future of the post office network in Scotland. [128989]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on a range of issues.

Economic Activity

9. **John McFall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his latest assessment is of the level of economic activity in Scotland. [128983]

David Cairns: The most recent data from the Office of National Statistics showed the economic activity rate to be 80.3 per cent.—a record high. This means that not only are there more people in work in Scotland today than ever before, but also there are more people seeking to join the labour force.

10. **Mr. Marshall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the economic performance of Scotland. [128984]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have regular meetings with my right hon. Friend to discuss a range of issues. The Scottish economy is currently growing at above the long-term trend rate, record numbers of people are employed and more people are participating in the labour market than ever before.

Financial Services

11. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he has taken to secure the long-term future of the financial services sector in Scotland. [128985]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: My right hon. Friend's decision to cut corporation tax directly addresses the concerns raised by the financial services sector when I have met them recently. Furthermore, recognising the significance of the sector in Scotland, the Chancellor invited me to join his high-level group on financial services. I am now currently working with the industry preparing a paper for the Chancellor's Group on what more can be done to support financial services in Scotland and win new investment and jobs.

New Deal

12. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the new deal in Scotland. [128986]

David Cairns: Since 1997 employment in Scotland is up by over 246,000, long-term claimant unemployment is close to its lowest for 30 years and long-term youth unemployment has been significantly reduced.

The new deal in Scotland has contributed to this success by helping more than 200,000 people into work.

Manufacturing Exports

14. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the First Minister to discuss manufacturing exports from Scotland. [128988]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have regular meetings with the First Minister where a range of issues are discussed. Scottish Executive data show that 2006 saw an annual increase in manufactured exports—the first increase in five years.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

British Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of food served in *(a)* buildings occupied by his Department and *(b)* schools in England and Wales was of British origin in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [111128]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Children In Care

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the commissioning process is for looked-after children services, with particular reference to the length of contract and conditions for renewal; what the conditions for the tendering process are; and if he will make a statement. [127035]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not mandate a single commissioning process for looked-after children services. Each top tier local authority operates a commissioning process in accordance with their standing orders, any relevant European procurement requirements and their obligations in the Children Act 1989. Issues such as length of contract, conditions for renewal and tendering processes are therefore at local authority discretion.

The Department has, however, taken steps to support better commissioning across the whole of children's services. These include publishing the "Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services", supporting a working group led by local authorities and provider organisations developing standardised national contracts for independent and non-maintained special schools and residential care, and developing children in care regional commissioning pilots, which will support local authorities by making available a choice of placements for each child, leaving final decisions about individual placements in the hands of social workers, in discussion with children themselves.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* private, voluntary and independent and *(b)* state sector child care places closed in each year since 1997. [126187]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* The information requested about child care places broken down by sector is not available.

The following table provides information for all types of day care provider.

Table 1: Number of child care places that have closed 2004-06, England

	Places			
	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*March to December 2006*
Closed	128,400	200,800	144,600	128,200
Childminders	50,400	63,000	44,800	37,900
Full daycare	38,500	65,600	48,700	41,800

Table 1: Number of child care places that have closed 2004-06, England

	Places			
	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*March to December 2006*
Out of school	39,500	72,200	51,100	48,500

Source: Ofsted.

Ofsted data on closures include registered places in settings which are transferring ownership, and in settings which move from one Ofsted category to another, not just in those which are ceasing trading.

Table 2: Number of child care places that have opened 2004-06, England

	Places			
	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*March to December 2006*
Opened	238,600	254,100	214,800	157,400
Childminders	62,800	53,000	48,800	37,000
Full daycare	98,600	117,600	90,900	68,400
Out of school	77,200	83,500	75,200	52,000

Source: Ofsted.

Ofsted has also produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Its latest figures were published in its report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, December 2006", which is available on its website, www.Ofsted.gov.uk/.

As these two tables show, there have been substantial net increases in child care places over this period.

Curriculum Review

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what terms of reference were set by his Department for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in relation to the secondary curriculum review. [128474]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority was asked to undertake a review of the key stage 3 curriculum to enable schools to have the flexibility to meet better students' individual needs and strengths. It was asked to review the content of all core and foundation subjects and to focus in particular on those subjects that were content heavy, namely history, geography, science, design and technology, citizenship and the non-statutory framework for personal, social and health education. QCA was also asked to consider the implications on key stage 3 English, mathematics and ICT of the review of these subjects at key stage 4, including the definition of functional skills.

Curriculum: Languages

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which foreign languages were studied by pupils in Tamworth constituency at *(a)* GCSE level, *(b)* A/S level and *(c)* A-level in 2006. [128337]

Jim Knight: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Pupils at the end of key stage 4 attending secondary schools located in Tamworth constituency were entered for GCSEs in the following modern foreign languages:

French;
German;
Spanish;
Modern Greek;
Chinese.

(b) Students aged 16 to 18 attending secondary schools and further education sector colleges located in Tamworth constituency in 2006 were entered for GCE AS-levels in the following modern foreign languages:

French;
German;
Italian.

(c) Students aged 16 to 18 attending schools and further education sector colleges located in Tamworth constituency in 2006 were entered for GCE A-levels in the following modern foreign languages:

French;
German;
Chinese.

Educational Psychologists

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the supply of educational psychologists. [129960]

Mr. Dhanda: Educational psychologists (EPs) are employed by local authorities, and it is for those authorities to determine how many to employ in light of their assessment of local needs and available resources, and to plan for future needs. The Department does not undertake any manpower planning assessment for this group of local employees.

The full-time equivalent number of EPs in post in local authorities in England, as at January 2006, was 2,200, with 109 full-time vacancies.

Employer Training Pilots

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1498W, which companies have signed Train to Gain contracts; how many staff each company employs; and how many of these staff will receive Train to Gain funded training. [128573]

Phil Hope: Train to Gain is a new service aimed at supporting businesses in improving their productivity through increased investment in the skills of their workforce. Skills brokers conduct an organisational needs analysis to understand the problems facing the company. They then source the most appropriate training provider to meet that needs analysis giving the employer a real choice in the selection of the training provider. Skills brokers then help the company put together a fully costed action plan, setting out the likely

levels of public subsidy together with any investment from the employer. Employers do not sign a contract but do enter into a non-contractual agreement setting out their commitment to the delivery of the action plan. By the end of January 2007, more than 25,000 employers have engaged with Train to Gain with more than 90,000 employees starting on a course of training.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many UK-domiciled students were studying for a *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time undergraduate degree in each British university in 2006, broken down by income decile of their parents. [129408]

Bill Rammell: Data on the number of UK domiciled students at each British university are not available broken down by parental income.

Information and Communications Technology: Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of IT degree graduates who went into careers in IT in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [129672]

Bill Rammell: The available information on the destination of graduates is taken from the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey collected annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The DLHE survey collects information on the first destination of graduates six months after qualifying. The latest figures are shown in the table for students qualifying in the 2004/05 academic year. Figures for the destinations of students qualifying in the 2005/06 academic year will be available in summer 2007. The table shows that, of those computer science graduates in employment, 3,200 or 41.6 per cent. of them were working in an IT occupation.

Destination and type of work of first degree computer science graduates[1] from the UK six months after graduation, English higher education institutions academic year 2004/05

Employment circumstances	*Number*	*Proportion[2]*
In work[3]	7,695	73.8
Of which:		
Information and communication technology professionals	2,265	29.5
IT service delivery occupations	935	72.2
Total IT occupations	3,200	41.6
Further study only	1,085	10.4
Assumed to be unemployed	1,120	10.7
Not available for employment	390	3.8
Other	140	1.3
Total known	10,425	100.0
Explicit refusal	330	—
Total	10,760	—

[1] The response rate for this questionnaire for computer science graduates was 77 per cent.; the figures cover students qualifying from full-time and part-time modes of study.
[2] Employment circumstance as a proportion of all known circumstances.
[3] Includes all employment circumstances that cover some form of work: full-time paid work only (including self-employed), part-time paid work only, voluntary/unpaid work only, and work and further study.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Language and Literacy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what support is provided to early years providers and primary schools to ensure an effective transition for children from the Foundation Stage to the National Curriculum for *(a)* speech, language and communication and *(b)* reading and literacy; and if he will make a statement; [129880]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the recommendations made by Ofsted in its report "The Foundation Stage" on *(a)* guidance on (i) raising standards in communication, language and literacy, (ii) supporting the achievement of boys and (iii) providing effective challenge for more able children and *(b)* training by local authorities on improving the links between communication, language and literacy and other areas of learning; and if he will make a statement; [129881]

(3) what support his Department provides to assist staff working in early years settings to raise standards in the provision of support to children for communication, language and literacy needs; and if he will make a statement. [130002]

Jim Knight: The Government welcome the recent Ofsted report and accept many of the recommendations. Evidence in this report was collected before the launch last September of the new programme of high quality phonics work to address the findings of Jim Rose's review of early reading. We are confident that this programme will deliver higher standards of communication, language and literacy skills.

The "Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage" already makes it clear that practitioners should plan a curriculum that helps all children to make good progress towards the early learning goals and, where appropriate, beyond. The Department has reinforced this by producing guidance on the identification of gifted and talented children and by asking the Primary National Strategy to produce guidance on better support for boys' learning. The "Early Years Foundation Stage" (EYFS) which takes effect in September 2008 and replaces the Foundation Stage guidance will set out equally clear expectations for all children.

The Department has produced a training package, "Communicating Matters", to help local authorities to support staff working in early years settings to raise standards in communication and language. In addition, the Primary National Strategy will shortly publish a new document to replace "Progression in Phonics" and "Playing with Sounds" which will support

effective phonics teaching from the EYFS through to the end of key stage 1. Training and briefing for practitioners emphasises the links and interdependencies between all the areas of learning and development.

The EYFS and the "Primary Framework for literacy and mathematics" which support planning progression and personalisation of learning have been developed in parallel, with relevant sections of each mirroring the other to ensure that there is continuity between the EYFS and key stage 1. In conjunction with the Primary National Strategy, the Department has also produced guidance on the importance of providing continuity of experience for young children and their families.

Languages: Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the standard of difficulty of modern language *(a)* GCSEs and *(b)* A-levels. [129679]

Jim Knight: There has been no recent assessment of the standard of difficulty of modern language *(a)* GCSEs and *(b)* A-levels. However, Lord Dearing's Languages Review, published on 12 March, considers the view that languages GCSEs are more demanding than other subjects, and that this perception has a negative impact on the number of pupils continuing to study languages post-14. He recommends that there is a study to resolve this issue as soon as possible. The Secretary of State has welcomed Lord Dearing's recommendations and we are considering how to take this recommendation forward.

Ofsted

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many members of staff of Ofsted have made formal complaints of bullying in the last 12 months; [127625]

(2) how many grievances were raised by staff at Ofsted in each of the last three years; [127626]

(3) how much Ofsted spent on *(a)* in-house training and *(b)* external training in each of the last three years; [127627]

(4) what the total cost of consultants employed by Ofsted was in each of the last three years; [127628]

(5) how many consultants were contracted to work for Ofsted in each of the last three years. [127629]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* These matters are for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 15 March 2007:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply. I will address these in turn:

I. You asked how many members of staff have made formal complaints of bullying in the last 12 months (PQ127625).

Of the 20 grievances raised between February 2006 and February 2007, four have related to "bullying and harassment". Of these, two have been heard and the grievance was not upheld, in one case the individual resigned before the hearing took place and a decision is pending on the fourth. This compares to seven complaints of bullying and harassment in 2004-2005; two in 2003-2004 and one in 2002-2003.

The increase in the number of complaints has partly been due to a revised bullying and harassment policy and initiatives implemented following Ofsted's 2004 staff survey results. These raised awareness of this issue and encouraged individuals to come forward with concerns they had. This issue remains a priority for Ofsted.

II. You asked how many grievances have been raised by staff at Ofsted in each of the last three years (PQ127626).

Until fairly recently, Ofsted has not kept records of all types of grievance. Those relating to bullying and harassment are on file as these are reported in our equal opportunities reports. Ofsted started collecting general grievance data as of November 2005 and our data therefore reflects this period onwards.

From the data we hold, we are able to report that, over the last 16 months, we have 22 grievances in total from members of staff (this figure includes the 20 grievances noted in response to PQ127625). Four of these were from the same individual, one was a collective grievance (from four members of staff) and the others were all individual one-off grievances.

III You asked how much Ofsted spent on (a) in-house training and (b) external training in each of the last three years (PQ127627).

The following internal costs (rounded to the nearest £5k) include a programme of courses that have been developed specifically for an Ofsted audience; these include management development, IT skills and nationally supported qualifications such as specialist degrees. They also include the cost of our corporate learning and development team:

	Internal	*External*	£ *Total*
2004-05	1,585,000	1,135,000	2,720,000
2005-06	1,645,000	930,000	2,575,000
2006-07	1,540,000	560,000	2,100,000

IV. You asked what the total cost of consultants employed by Ofsted was in each of the last three years (PQ127628) and how many consultants have been contracted to work for Ofsted in each of the last three years (PQ127629).

Based on the DfES definition of consultancy services, which is "investigating problems, providing analysis or advice, or assisting with the development of new systems, new structures or new capabilities within the organisation", we will have spent around £2.5 million (including VAT) in the financial year 2006-07. This spend is through 42 consultants.

Within this total around three quarters is for Information Services related consultancy to build new systems ready for the creation of the New Ofsted with effect from 1 April 2007. The remainder covers other corporate areas such as estates, personnel and finance.

Due to the way in which Ofsted has previously prepared our accounts, this is the only year for which a separately identifiable consultancy figure is available.

A copy of these replies have been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils left pupil referral units to enter *(a)* special schools and *(b)* mainstream schools in each year between 1997 and 2006, broken down by local authority. [127855]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils at pupil referral units were issued with a national record of achievement in each year between 1997 and 2006, broken down by local authority. [127856]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Both the national record of achievement (NRA) and its successor, Progress File, were made available on a voluntary basis. While over 70 per cent. of secondary schools and many colleges ordered Progress File materials, our distribution records do not distinguish pupil referral units from other educational establishments.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils at pupil referral units there were with pupils numbers of *(a)* under five, *(b)* between five to 10, *(c)* between 10 to 20, *(d)* between 20 to 30, *(e)* between 30 to 40, *(f)* between 40 to 50, *(g)* between 50 to 80, *(h)* between 80 to 100 and (i) over 100 in each year between 1997 and 2006. [127858]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table.

Pupil referral units: Number of schools by size and number of pupils[1], 1997-2006, position in January each year, England

	Under 5 pupils		*5 to 10 pupils*		*11 to 20 pupils*		*21 to 30 pupils*		*31 to 40 pupils*	
	Schools	*Pupils*	*Schools*	*Pupils*	*Schools*	*Pupils*	*Schools*	*Pupils*	*Schools*	*Pupils*
1997	73	76	46	331	79	1,202	40	1,000	26	932
1998	82	103	37	284	70	1,083	43	1,073	26	908
1999	68	88	44	324	65	1,014	34	853	29	1,013
2000	69	93	28	229	63	952	45	1,094	28	986
2001	67	102	40	300	67	1,053	52	1,331	23	804
2002	66	98	37	278	72	1,085	45	1,100	19	651
2003	66	79	55	393	77	1,130	48	1,188	28	1,000
2004	101	155	66	482	84	1,284	52	1,281	23	823
2005	103	134	72	526	83	1,268	48	1,197	43	1,491
2006	117	161	47	358	81	1,223	64	1,620	25	870

	41 to 50 pupils		*51 to 80 pupils*		*81 to 100 pupils*		*Over 100 pupils*		*Total*	
	Schools	*Pupils*	*Schools*	*Pupils*	*Schools*	*Pupils*	*Schools*	*Pupils*	*Schools*	*Pupils*
1997	13	583	15	954	6	529	11	1,923	309	7,530
1998	14	617	21	1,310	3	272	13	2,090	309	7,740
1999	15	669	24	1,493	7	605	12	2,204	298	8,263
2000	13	576	28	1,686	8	695	13	2,168	295	8,479
2001	13	580	16	1,076	10	900	20	3,143	308	9,289
2002	13	591	27	1,705	8	730	25	3,718	312	9,956
2003	18	822	28	1,777	8	725	32	4,891	360	12,005
2004	25	1,149	33	2,059	8	711	34	5,094	426	13,038
2005	19	857	30	1,832	16	1,482	33	5,685	447	14,472
2006	25	1,113	38	2,480	14	1,246	38	6,169	449	15,240

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils. Includes pupils with other providers.

Source:
Schools Census.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupil referral units there were in each year between 1997 and 2006, broken down by local authority. [127859]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Pupils: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what additional revenue support has been allocated in 2006-07 to assist children in mainstream schools with severe behavioural problems. [127942]

Jim Knight: Information on additional revenue support to assist children in mainstream schools with severe behavioural problems is not collected centrally.

In 2006-07, for the first time, schools received their funding from a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) rather than as part of the local government settlement. The DSG is a ring-fenced grant and must be used for schools' budgets. It is for each local authority to distribute funding using a locally agreed formula, and for schools' governing bodies to decide how to spend the available resources.

Pupils: Clothing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of Muslim schoolgirls who wear a veil at school. [129406]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made any estimate of the number of Muslim schoolgirls wearing a veil at school.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority futures initiative to the secondary curriculum review. [128317]

Jim Knight: The information gathered from the futures initiative through consultation with stakeholders, such as employers, subject associations, head teachers and young people, helped to inform QCA's proposals for the secondary curriculum review.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library copies of advice sent to *(a)* him and *(b)* other Ministers by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority since 14 December 2006. [128806]

Jim Knight: There is an agreed protocol for publishing advice to Ministers from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Any such advice since 14 December 2006 and during the first four months of 2007 is due to be published on the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's website in June 2007.

I will write to the hon. Member when the advice is published.

School Sports

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding his Department made available for school sports facilities in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [129996]

Jim Knight: Data at the level requested are not held centrally. The capital funding for investment in school buildings—including sports facilities—is set out in the following table:

	England (£ billion)	*Staffordshire[1] (£ million)*
2002-03	3.3	32.9
2003-04	4.2	35.5
2004-05	4.9	41.1
2005-06	5.6	29.2
2006-07	5.9	41.2

[1] Where the majority of Tamworth schools are located

Schools: Location

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of 11-year-olds have no secondary school within two miles of their home; and how their interests will be taken into account under the guidance of the new Schools Admission Code. [128460]

Jim Knight: The percentage of 11-year-olds with no secondary school within two miles of their home is given in the following table. These distances are measured as a straight line between home and school.

Percentage of 11-year-olds[1] with no secondary[2] school within two miles of their home—2006

	Pupils
Total number of 11-year-old pupils	557,151
Number of 11-year-old pupils with unknown residence	2,251
Number of 11-year-old pupils with no suitable secondary school within two miles of their home	51,483
Percentage of 11-year-old pupils with no suitable secondary school within two miles of their home	9.2

[1] Pupils aged 11 on 31 August 2005.
[2] Includes maintained secondary, middle deemed secondary, city technology colleges and academies.
Source:
School Census, January 2006

The new School Admissions Code rules out the use of unfair admission criteria, and encourages admission authorities for schools to consider how they can ensure fair access to schools for all children in their area. Local authorities must provide free home-to-school transport for secondary pupils attending their nearest suitable school where the school is beyond the statutory walking distance of three miles.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 extends rights to free home-to-school transport to a choice of three maintained schools and academies for children from low-income families (defined as those whose children are entitled to free school meals or who are in receipt of their maximum level of working tax credit) where they live between two and six miles from their chosen school. This will remove the lack of affordable transport as a barrier to choice for these families.

Schools: Transport

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total central funding to local authorities, via all mechanisms, for school transport is in 2006-07; how much central funding each local authority has received for school transport; what total sum has been spent by local authorities and central Government on school transport; and how much revenue has been raised from parental contribution to defray the cost of school transport in each local authority area. [128677]

Jim Knight: This question has been passed to the Department as it has responsibility for collecting information from local authorities about school transport expenditure.

Central funding of local authorities for home-to-school transport is included within formula grant. This can be used on a range of services provided by authorities, and the way in which it is calculated does not make it possible to say that a certain amount is for school transport costs.

Local authorities submit financial information to the Department;

1. specifying their planned expenditure on school transport, and

2. after the financial year has ended to show the actual expenditure.

For 2006-07 the total planned expenditure on school transport by local authorities in England is £889,101,657. Anticipated income is £9,502,934 which

includes, but may not be entirely made up of, parental contributions. The table provided shows the information broken down by individual local authority.

It is not possible to supply the actual amounts spent and raised in 2006-07 as this data will not be supplied to the Department until later this year.

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations 2006. Planned expenditure on school transport for the 2006-07 financial year. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 23 March 2007

£

LEA number	Local authority name	Total planned expenditure on home to school transport[1] Gross	Income	Net
201	City of London	53,000	10,900	42,100
202	Camden	2,374,749	0	2,374,749
203	Greenwich	3,019,000	0	3,019,000
204	Hackney	3,484,361	279,400	3,204,961
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	2,148,823	0	2,148,823
206	Islington	1,991,886	0	1,991,886
207	Kensington and Chelsea	1,384,046	0	1,384,046
208	Lambeth	3,463,970	0	3,463,970
209	Lewisham	3,994,455	0	3,994,455
210	Southwark	4,375,807	0	4,375,807
211	Tower Hamlets	3,301,554	0	3,301,554
212	Wandsworth	2,669,921	630	2,669,291
213	Westminster	3,062,200	20,000	3,042,200
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,926,000	0	1,926,000
302	Barnet	5,317,139	0	5,317,139
303	Bexley	2,598,000	0	2,598,000
304	Brent	3,246,000	0	3,246,000
305	Bromley	3,228,452	0	3,228,452
306	Croydon	5,385,912	117,800	5,268,112
307	Ealing	4,797,200	0	4,797,200
308	Enfield	4,164,428	0	4,164,428
309	Haringey	3,723,616	0	3,723,616
310	Harrow	2,631,929	0	2,631,929
311	Havering	1,307,580	0	1,307,580
312	Hillingdon	3,961,772	0	3,961,772
313	Hounslow	2,478,364	0	2,478,364
314	Kingston upon Thames	2,106,735	0	2,106,735
315	Merton	2,020,960	0	2,020,960
316	Newham	2,958,500	0	2,958,500
317	Redbridge	2,946,385	3,763	2,942,622
318	Richmond upon Thames	1,885,200	0	1,885,200
319	Sutton	2,561,359	0	2,561,359
320	Waltham Forest	3,252,937	0	3,252,937
330	Birmingham	13,472,497	0	13,472,497
331	Coventry	2,935,099	40,027	2,895,072
332	Dudley	2,011,105	0	2,011,105
333	Sandwell	2,653,500	0	2,653,500
334	Solihull	2,519,134	0	2,519,134
335	Walsall	2,272,683	0	2,272,683
336	Wolverhampton	3,049,500	0	3,049,500
340	Knowsley	1,710,136	14,738	1,695,398
341	Liverpool	4,796,058	0	4,796,058
342	St. Helens	2,354,517	0	2,354,517
343	Sefton	2,806,599	0	2,806,599
344	Wirral	4,342,300	179,000	4,163,300
350	Bolton	2,693,233	0	2,693,233
351	Bury	1,847,800	55,200	1,792,600
352	Manchester	8,704,688	8,000	8,696,688
353	Oldham	1,914,490	0	1,914,490
354	Rochdale	2,162,716	6,000	2,156,716
355	Salford	1,987,810	0	1,987,810
356	Stockport	2,955,589	0	2,955,589
357	Tameside	1,365,000	0	1,365,000
358	Trafford	3,391,096	171,500	3,219,596
359	Wigan	3,588,946	0	3,588,946

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations 2006. Planned expenditure on school transport for the 2006-07 financial year. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 23 March 2007

£

LEA number	Local authority name	Total planned expenditure on home to school transport[1] Gross	Income	Net
370	Barnsley	1,791,310	0	1,791,310
371	Doncaster	3,967,058	0	3,967,058
372	Rotherham	2,525,043	0	2,525,043
373	Sheffield	5,293,119	99,158	5,193,961
380	Bradford	7,285,216	0	7,285,216
381	Calderdale	2,677,775	5,820	2,671,955
382	Kirklees	3,252,400	0	3,252,400
383	Leeds	8,001,610	0	8,001,610
384	Wakefield	3,824,630	716,646	3,107,984
390	Gateshead	1,573,058	150	1,572,908
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	1,937,840	0	1,937,840
392	North Tyneside	1,287,151	0	1,287,151
393	South Tyneside	929,357	0	929,357
394	Sunderland	2,182,441	0	2,182,441
420	Isles of Scilly	28,500	0	28,500
800	Bath and North East Somerset	3,609,556	45,914	3,563,642
801	Bristol City of	5,967,908	15,888	5,952,020
802	North Somerset	3,475,110	0	3,475,110
803	South Gloucestershire	4,194,000	44,000	4,150,000
805	Hartlepool	1,469,282	676	1,468,606
806	Middlesbrough	1,983,713	0	1,983,713
807	Redcar and Cleveland	1,694,148	50,600	1,643,548
808	Stockton-on-Tees	2,726,816	0	2,726,816
810	Kingston upon Hull City of	2,405,909	0	2,405,909
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	9,676,910	11,900	9,665,010
812	North East Lincolnshire	2,298,200	61,200	2,237,000
813	North Lincolnshire	3,425,144	61,550	3,363,594
815	North Yorkshire	18,139,577	175,266	17,964,311
816	York	2,478,736	41,360	2,437,376
820	Bedfordshire	12,344,268	0	12,344,268
821	Luton	2,651,971	21,788	2,630,183
825	Buckinghamshire	18,510,472	1,138,916	17,371,556
826	Milton Keynes	3,414,436	56,460	3,357,976
830	Derbyshire	12,042,648	42,420	12,000,228
831	Derby	2,713,525	0	2,713,525
835	Dorset	11,602,500	156,600	11,445,900
836	Poole	1,678,150	0	1,678,150
837	Bournemouth	1,221,895	270	1,221,625
840	Durham	12,886,871	2,000	12,884,871
841	Darlington	1,436,002	0	1,436,002
845	East Sussex	8,491,982	75,000	8,416,982
846	Brighton and Hove	2,739,619	21,000	2,718,619
850	Hampshire	20,953,100	0	20,953,100
851	Portsmouth	1,655,584	0	1,655,584
852	Southampton	1,540,766	34,077	1,506,689
855	Leicestershire	14,575,257	286,166	14,289,091
856	Leicester	3,634,208	82,014	3,552,194
857	Rutland	1,053,354	60,000	993,354
860	Staffordshire	14,755,520	285,960	14,469,560
861	Stoke-on-Trent	2,032,983	0	2,032,983
865	Wiltshire	13,264,919	191,400	13,073,519
866	Swindon	2,599,517	0	2,599,517
867	Bracknell Forest	2,026,918	66,310	1,960,608
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	2,290,003	61,810	2,228,193
869	West Berkshire	3,352,631	61,100	3,291,531
870	Reading	1,461,555	23,517	1,438,038
871	Slough	1,959,971	32,500	1,927,471
872	Wokingham	2,459,431	26,674	2,432,747
873	Cambridgeshire	13,667,059	155,572	13,511,487

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations 2006. Planned expenditure on school transport for the 2006-07 financial year. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 23 March 2007

£

LEA number	Local authority name	Total planned expenditure on home to school transport[1] Gross	Income	Net
874	Peterborough	2,956,606	687	2,955,919
875	Cheshire	15,761,579	483,608	15,277,971
876	Halton	1,244,950	0	1,244,950
877	Warrington	3,007,702	0	3,007,702
878	Devon	21,247,880	489,484	20,758,396
879	Plymouth	2,990,654	8,056	2,982,598
880	Torbay	1,914,890	68,100	1,846,790
881	Essex	28,466,245	172,364	28,293,881
882	Southend-on-Sea	2,077,877	2,050	2,075,827
883	Thurrock	2,322,449	0	2,322,449
884	Herefordshire	5,228,832	55,269	5,173,563
885	Worcestershire	10,309,430	0	10,309,430
886	Kent	34,582,220	440,000	34,142,220
887	Medway	4,063,847	174,341	3,889,506
888	Lancashire	25,342,295	0	25,342,295
889	Blackburn with Darwen	2,034,546	0	2,034,546
890	Blackpool	1,418,282	0	1,418,282
891	Nottinghamshire	11,093,954	0	11,093,954
892	Nottingham	2,308,899	0	2,308,899
893	Shropshire	9,331,443	173,000	9,158,443
894	Telford and Wrekin	2,672,411	0	2,672,411
908	Cornwall	10,112,560	113,000	9,999,560
909	Cumbria	12,476,234	36,000	12,440,234
916	Gloucestershire	9,806,151	433,402	9,372,749
919	Hertfordshire	22,310,243	1	22,310,242
921	Isle of Wight	1,718,813	31,626	1,687,187
925	Lincolnshire	28,205,890	0	28,205,890
926	Norfolk	22,775,340	352,840	22,422,500
928	Northamptonshire	11,580,560	40,000	11,540,560
929	Northumberland	9,135,642	26,980	9,108,662
931	Oxfordshire	15,544,370	558,486	14,985,884
933	Somerset	12,107,700	450,000	11,657,700
935	Suffolk	16,090,694	92,000	15,958,694
936	Surrey	24,586,930	100,000	24,486,930
937	Warwickshire	10,755,934	83,000	10,672,934
938	West Sussex	13,082,267	0	13,082,267

[1] Includes all elements of home-to-school transport for school pupils. This is drawn from local authorities Section 52 budget statements (Table 1 lines 1.2.6, 2.4.6 and 2.4.7)

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 36W, on secondary education: curriculum, whether he expects Ofsted to take into account non-statutory guidance accompanying the National Curriculum when inspecting a school. [127934]

Jim Knight: Ofsted inspectors are required by the framework for inspection to evaluate the extent to which learning programmes match learners' aspirations and potential, building on their prior attainment and experience, and how far the curriculum meets external requirements and is responsive to local circumstances. External requirements are those of the National Curriculum, but inspectors would also be aware of other guidance received by schools. The Chief Inspector will consider what if any additional advice needs to be provided to inspectors in the light of guidance issued to schools.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 36W, on secondary education: curriculum (1) whether the regional events planned by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will be open to the general public; [127935]

(2) how the regional events planned by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will be publicised. [127936]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's regional events are being run with local authorities and are designed for specific audiences. For example, two of the regional events will be for parents. Local authorities are hosting the events and it is they who are inviting delegates to attend. QCA will also be

running seminars and exhibiting at the Education Show later this month which is widely attended by parents and teachers. All those with an interest in the consultation can complete the response form online at www.qca.org.uk/secondarycurriculumreview/.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 36W, on secondary education: curriculum, what the purpose was of the visit of the Director of Curriculum to South Africa. [127937]

Jim Knight: The purpose of the visit of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's Director of Curriculum to South Africa was to inform them about the curriculum and qualifications in England, to learn more about their curriculum and to share examples of good practice. The visit was at the request of the Western Cape Education Department, who are interested in learning from our curriculum experience.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library the *(a)* agendas and *(b)* minutes of meetings of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Secondary Curriculum Review External Committee. [128728]

Jim Knight: The Department has no plans to ask the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to release the agendas and minutes of its Secondary Curriculum Review External Committee.

Secondments

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which staff in his Department are *(a)* seconded from organisations with charitable status and *(b)* have (i) costs and (ii) salaries met (A) in part and (B) in whole from (1) public funds and (2) by the charity from which they are seconded. [102409]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department currently has a total of 83 inward secondments the vast majority of which are from organisations in the wider public sector. The costs and salaries for inward secondments to the Department are met in full from public funds by the business unit engaging them.

There is no current requirement on Departments to formally collect information on the status of organisations to determine whether they have charitable status.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the draft guidance on Planning and Developing Special Educational Provision issued for consultation on 8 March 2007. [127381]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Teachers: Primary Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students qualified to become primary school teachers in each of the last five years; and how many vacancies for primary school teachers there were that period. [128336]

Jim Knight: The numbers of primary trainee teachers gaining qualified teacher status (QTS) in academic years, 2000/01 to 2004/05, the latest year for which information is available, are shown in the following table:

Primary teachers gaining qualified teacher status by academic year

	Number of teachers
2000/01	10,540
2001/02	10,720
2002/03	11,930
2003/04	12,470
2004/05	12,690

Notes:
1. Includes those trained through SCITTs, but excludes completers through employment based routes.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Training and Development Agency's Performance Profiles

The numbers of vacancies for nursery and primary school teachers for January in years, 2001 to 2005 are shown in the following table:

Full-time vacancies in local authority maintained schools in England: January of each year

	Nursery and primary[1,2]
2001	2,110
2002	1,800
2003	1,110
2004	780
2005	740

[1] The vacancies are only those available on the date of the survey in January. They are advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments of at least one-term duration and include those being covered on a temporary basis by a teacher with a contract of less than one term.
[2] In January 2006, there were 710 vacancies in nursery and primary schools in England. However, the information on the number of trainee teachers gaining QTS for 2005/06 is yet to be published.

Source:
618g survey

The number of people to be trained to be teachers each year is calculated taking account of the forecast demand for teachers due to pupil numbers, teacher wastage, returnees and retirements and new curriculum pressures. This will inevitably be greater than the number of vacancies at the single point in January when vacancy statistics are counted. Most vacancies will be filled by schools as from the start of the academic year in September and therefore will not be shown as such at the single point in January when vacancy statistics are counted. The January figure is therefore a reflection of posts that are unfilled at that time, not of vacancies that have become available and been filled during the year.

Teaching Assistants: County Durham

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teaching assistants there are in County Durham; and how many there were in 1997. [128856]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in the former County Durham local authority area in January 1997 and 2006.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools in former County Durham, Darlington and Durham, January 1997 and 2006

	1997	2006
Former County Durham	640	—
Darlington	—	300
Durham	—	1,100
Total	640	1,400

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Annual School Census.

Durham and Darlington local authorities were created as separate local authorities with responsibilities for education on 1 April 1997. Prior to this date figures for Durham and Darlington were included in the former County Durham local authority area.

Third Sector Forum

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects the minutes of the Third Sector Forum for Children and Young People which took place on 22 January to be published; and what the reason is for the delay in the publication. [129879]

Mr. Dhanda: The notes from the meetings of the DfES Third Sector Forum for Children and Young People's Services held on 22 January 2007 will be made public on 26 March. They will be found on the Every Child Matters website through the Strategy and Governance section on the Third Sector Forum page. The reason for the delay in the publication is administrative oversight.

Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of community sport and cultural activities funded by his Department in engaging young people most at risk of committing antisocial behaviour. [128265]

Jim Knight: Although the funding of community sport and cultural activities is primarily the concern of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, youth work providers do use sport and cultural activities in the process of working with young people—sometimes utilising funding issued by the DfES.

The main DfES programme working in this way has been the Positive Activities for Young People programme (PAYP). Between April 2003 and March 2006 PAYP engaged 250,000 young people (85 per cent. of whom were classified as being 'at risk') in constructive leisure time activities. 47 per cent. of the activities were sport or arts based. The evaluation of PAYP found that the programme had achieved a range of positive outcomes for participating young people, including contributing to reductions in criminal and antisocial behaviour, supporting people back into education, and offering opportunities for personal development.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has undertaken of *(a)* how far youth activities meet the demands of people and *(b)* the impact on the provision of youth activities on preventing involvement in antisocial behaviour. [128269]

Jim Knight: The Youth Matters green paper (2005) set out a range of proposals for youth activities and support. The subsequent consultation drew a strong and positive response—including from over 19,000 young people.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 introduced a new duty on local authorities to secure young people's access to positive activities. The duty also requires local authorities to consult young people about local positive activities, including the need for new provision and any access issues, and to take these views into account.

Activities for young people are one of the key elements of the Respect Action plan for tackling antisocial behaviour. Such youth activities contribute to the prevention of a range of negative outcomes, including involvement in antisocial behaviour. For example, the evaluation of the Positive Activities for Young People programme (PAYP) found that the programme had achieved a range of positive outcomes for participating young people, including contributing to reductions in criminal and antisocial behaviour, supporting people back into education, and offering opportunities for personal development.

Young People: Education and Training

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many young people not in employment, education or training there were in Hampshire in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [117373]

(2) when he will answer question number 117373, on young people, tabled by the hon. Member for Basingstoke on 17 January 2007. [129615]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 23 January 2007]:* The following table gives the estimated number and percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the South Central Connexions Partnership area in every year since 2002. The South Central area includes the local authorities of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Estimated number and percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds in South Central Connexions Partnership area who were not in education, employment or training, November 2002-05

	Number	Percentage
2002	3,070	5.2
2003	3,340	5.8
2004	2,720	4.7
2005	3,630	6.1

These figures are drawn from the operational client management systems maintained by Connexions services. It only includes those people known to the service (about 85 per cent. of the population); some young people who attended independent schools or were at school outside England are excluded. The age relates to those of calendar year age 16-18 on the date of measurement.

This NEET measure is that used for setting and monitoring Connexions performance. The definition differs from that used to measure the national departmental PSA NEET target. Along with not covering the entire population, the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, or in custody. The PSA measure is for academic rather than calendar age 16-18.

The Department has a target to reduce the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET by 2 percentage points by 2010.

There is a close alignment between poor educational attainment pre-16 and the likelihood of becoming NEET between the ages of 16 and 18. Our 14-19 reforms are aimed at raising attainment levels, and ensuring that as many young people as possible remain in education and training up to the age of 18.

Youth Matters set out a series of reforms aimed at improving the way in which services work together to support young people particularly those most at risk of underachieving.

Youth Work: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills who the recipients of grants made by the National Voluntary Youth Organisation grant programme are; and how much was paid to each recipient for each year between 1997 and 2006. [130295]

Mr. Dhanda: The NVYO grant scheme is a three-year cycle of funding. The current cycle covers the three years 2005-08. Individual awards, including separate amounts for the three years involved are shown in the first table. Total amounts only are available for the 2002-05 scheme and these are shown in the second table.

Figures prior to 2002 are not readily available.

NVYO grant scheme allocations, 2005-08 cycle

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Academy of Youth, University of the First Age (UFA)	92,749	93,347	93,347	279,443
AFASIC	18,549	39,733	49,322	107,604
African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance (ACEA)	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Baptist Union of Great Britain	103,357	105,642	108,868	317,866
Barnado's	29,112	33,152	35,588	97,852
Boys Brigade	79,161	68,108	63,873	211,142
Brathay Hall Trust	95,239	95,853	95,074	286,167
British Diabetic Association (The) (Diabetes UK)	42,407	43,787	45,122	131,316
British Red Cross	145,989	149,332	157,153	452,474
British Youth Council	162,655	157,272	166,503	486,430
Centrepoint	59,685	55,532	58,789	174,006
Changemakers Foundation	97,763	89,513	92,813	280,088
Children's Express	48,305	48,870	49,541	146,716
Children's Society	62,971	55,374	61,457	179,802
Church of England Board of Education	137,033	139,838	145,035	421,905
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (Spectrum)	55,275	55,350	56,850	167,475
Churches Together in England	50,291	53,384	53,276	156,951
Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Community Matters	58,224	59,516	56,683	174,423
Crusaders	97,733	97,345	99,180	294,258
DEAFAX	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Development Education Association	49,427	47,885	53,503	150,815
Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Young People (Continyou)	68,053	68,053	68,053	204,158
Duke of Edinburgh Awards	111,671	111,995	124,612	348,277
Eating Disorders Association (EDA)	10,003	14,349	23,157	47,509
Endeavour Training	228,625	230,100	230,100	688,825
Fairbridge	57,208	94,420	95,849	247,478
Focus	77,977	76,414	77,497	231,888
Girlguiding UK	34,695	42,575	23,571	100,841
Girl's Brigade	55,139	65,864	53,229	174,233
Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets	32,020	32,120	33,120	97,260
Groundwork	61,075	72,674	74,986	208,736
Hope UK	76,932	76,696	78,202	231,830
Inspire Trust	63,163	61,679	66,063	190,904

NVYO grant scheme allocations, 2005-08 cycle

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
International Voluntary Service	38,535	39,969	41,942	120,446
In-volve	57,079	55,556	57,222	169,857
Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade	111,600	110,338	118,100	340,038
Leaveners (The)	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
Maccabi GB	63,750	65,430	67,110	196,290
Mencap	58,549	68,358	64,924	191,831
Message Trust	72,246	50,138	45,817	168,201
Methodist Church (MAYC)	85,634	88,550	77,663	251,848
Minorities of Europe	52,463	50,523	52,317	155,303
Muslim Youth Helpline	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
NACRO	69,190	19,600	0	88,790
National Association of Clubs for Young People	252,435	262,949	264,258	779,641
National Association of Youth Theatres	106,243	111,175	115,687	333,105
National Community Boats Association	48,190	45,860	29,940	123,990
National Deaf Children's Society (The)	49,342	59,458	70,345	179,145
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs	123,750	132,000	140,250	396,000
National Trust (The)	95,182	96,221	99,044	290,447
National Youth Theatre of GB	90,288	93,600	96,330	280,218
NCVYS	389,835	349,770	368,796	1,108,402
NYA (on behalf of Youth Bank)	68,538	72,359	74,535	215,452
ONE20 trading as Timebank	75,000	75,000	0	150,000
Outward Bound Trust	88,799	78,664	81,024	248,487
Peacemaker	61,830	60,343	61,916	184,088
Prince's Trust (The)	40,230	51,782	57,988	150,000
Princess Royal Trust for Carers (The)	33,110	33,772	34,448	101,330
Rainer	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Raleigh International	59,634	57,386	49,489	166,509
Rathbone	177,661	157,235	160,763	495,659
Reformed Synagogues of GB (Reform Judaism)	47,791	49,542	52,726	150,060
RSPB (withdrawn from scheme August 2005)	5,229	12,456	23,297	40,982
Rural Youth Network	77,953	77,888	79,715	235,556
Scout Association	98,403	103,689	107,360	309,453
Sense	33,079	26,669	29,610	89,358
Shelter	93,137	64,856	65,888	223,881
Skill	144,452	143,625	152,630	440,706
Student Action for Refugees (STAR)	50,226	49,613	51,602	151,442
Tall Ships Trust	97,002	75,676	51,726	224,404
Time for God	50,659	48,810	50,494	149,963
Trident Trust—Brathay Hall	78,943	80,306	138,478	297,726
UJIA Makor	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
UK Youth	152,530	250,760	291,400	694,690
UNICEF UK	113,5[illegible]	96,720	96,720	306,978
United Reformed Church	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Weston Spirit	62,899	64,418	65,983	193,299
Wildlife Trust	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
YMCA	148,649	151,105	158,036	457,789
Youth Access	198,806	205,556	203,760	608,122
Youth Access and Leap Confronting Conflict	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Youth Action Network	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Youth for Christ	78,151	78,655	78,655	235,461
Youth Music Theatre UK	74,439	67,540	60,214	202,193
YWCA England and Wales	141,954	164,270	179,920	486,144
Total	6,984,453	7,038,962	7,163,535	21,186,950

Breakdown of total funding awarded to each organisation in respect of the 2002-05 cycle, total over 36 months

Name of organisation	NVYO grant (£)
African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance	51,066.00
Army Cadet Force	102,130.00
Artswork	125,985.00
Baptist Union of GB	204,260.00
Boy's Brigade	93,619.00

Breakdown of total funding awarded to each organisation in respect of the 2002-05 cycle, total over 36 months

Name of organisation	*NVYO grant (£)*
Boy's Brigade and Girl's Brigade Joint Project	25,533.00
Brathay Hall Trust	186,486.00
The British Gospel Arts Consortium	116,720.00
British Red Cross	360,211.00
The British Sports Trust	173,494.00
Campaigners	96,489.00
CEDC	194,534.00
Centrepoint	105,000.00
Changemakers Foundation Ltd.	194,534.00
Childrens Express	127,663.00
Childrens Society	150,000.00
Church of England Youth Service	255,541.00
Church Lads' and Girls Brigade	70,640.00
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland	194,534.00
Commonwealth YEC	158,302.00
Council for environmental Education	102,130.00
Crime Concern	86,658.00
The Crusaders	251,151.00
CYFA Pathfinder Ventures Ltd.	85,035.00
Dewliffe Hall Education Foundation	194,534.00
Deafax Trust	53,058.00
Development Education Association	76,598.00
Duke of Edinburgh's Awards	339,999.00
Endeavour Training	857,624.00
Fairbridge	492,000.00
Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens	101,272.00
Focus	248,031.00
The Foyer Federation	140,706.00
Friends of Young Deaf People	261,648.00
Frontier Youth Trust	36,474.00
Frontier Youth Trust—National Council YMCA and Church Army	85,110.00
Girl' Brigade	40,852.00
Girls' Friendly Society	144,684.00
Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets	51,162.00
Groundwork	86,658.00
Guide Association	51,066.00
Hope UK	118,082.00
International Voluntary Service	40,851.00
Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade	119,152.00
Leap Confronting Conflict	279,597.00
The Leaveners	12,999.00
Lubavitch Foundation	187,239.00
Makor AJY	130,629.00
Mencap	189,937.00
Methodist Association of Youth Clubs	289,369.00
National Association of Clubs for Young People	632,766.00
Nat. Ass. of Clubs for Young People and Youth Action Network	106,089.00
Nat. Association of Clubs for Young People—National Youth Agency—Department for Education and Skills	89,748.00
National Association of Youth Theatres	188,941.00
National Council of YMCA's	314,026.00
National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs	360,000.00

Breakdown of total funding awarded to each organisation in respect of the 2002-05 cycle, total over 36 months

Name of organisation	*NVYO grant (£)*
National Forum for the Development of Rural Youth Work	156,600.00
The National Trust	176,539.00
National Youth Music Theatre	190,643.00
National Youth Theatre of GB	291,801.00
NCVYS and British Youth Council	1,166,589.00
New Testament Church of God	40,851.00
Oasis Trust	238,304.00
Ocean Youth Trust North West	127,322.00
Outward Bound Trust	264,840.00
PHAB	109,060.00
Philharmonia Orchestra	66,130.00
The Prince's Trust	194,534.00
Quaker Home Service	25,599.00
Raleigh International	127,662.00
Rathbone Society	268,614.00
Reform Synagogues of GB	154,908.00
RPS Rainer	190,000.00
Sail Training Association	85,109.00
St. John Ambulance Youth	88,749.00
Salvation Army	102,130.00
Save the Children Fund	179,628.00
Scouts Association	373,725.00
Shelter	97,932.00
Skylight Circus Arts	25,997.00
Spurgeon's Child Care	100,671.00
Time for God	88,743.00
Union of MACCABI Associations	147,846.00
UK Youth	867,435.00
UK Youth—Council for Environment Education and Groundwork Birmingham	96,684.00
UK Youth Parliament	86,658.00
United Reform Church (Joint)	51,066.00
United Reformed Church	150,765.00
Weston Spirit	183,480.00
Woodcraft Folk	156,843.00
Youth Access and Leap Confronting Conflict	136,173.00
Youth for Christ (in Energize) Partnership with Worth Unlimited	194,535.00
Young Christian Workers	67,374.00
Young Muslim Organisation	60,000.00
Young Womens Christian Association	408,366.00
Youth Access	485,454.00
Youth Action Network	137,477.00
Total	17,995,482.00

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Brownfield Sites

23. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she next expects to meet representatives of planning authorities to discuss building on brownfield sites. [129837]

Meg Munn: I and my ministerial colleagues meet the Local Government Association regularly to discuss a range of matters. But there are no current plans to meet them to discuss this specific subject.

Coalfield Communities

25. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on regeneration in coalfield communities. [129839]

Yvette Cooper: English Partnership's Coalfield Programme, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the Coalfields Enterprise Fund are delivering real change including 16,000 jobs so far as well as new homes, skills and community support.

Housing

26. **Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what work her Department is undertaking in response to the report by John Hills on the future of housing. [129840]

Ruth Kelly: John Hills' report is a significant contribution to the debate about the role of social housing. My Department is developing a programme of work to address the challenges raised in John's report. We will bring forward our detailed proposals in due course.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* one-off and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Building (Amendment) Regulations 2001 and the Building (Approved Inspectors etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125615]

Angela E. Smith: The Building (Amendment) Regulations 2001 and the Building (Approved Inspectors etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 Regulations implemented changes to Parts H (drainage and waste disposal), J (combustion appliances and fuel storage systems) and L (conservation of fuel and power) of the Building Regulations.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment was carried out and is on the Department's website. It gives the following estimates of costs and benefits:

Part H	*£ million*
One off cost to business:	0
One off cost to regulators	0
Recurring cost to business	94
Recurring cost to regulators	0

Note:
The annual benefits were estimated at £177 million

Part J	*£ million*
One off cost to business	0.32
One off cost to regulators	0
Recurring cost to business	22
Recurring cost to regulators	0

Note:
The annual benefits were estimated at £30 million

Part L	*£ million*
One off cost to business	0
One off cost to regulators	0
Recurring cost to business	159
Recurring cost to regulators	0

Note:
The annual benefits were estimated at £237 million

As is clear above, the changes in each case were shown to deliver substantial health and safety and energy efficiency benefits which far outweighed the costs. It was estimated that the costs to regulators would be nil or minimal since these were amendments to existing provisions.

Local Government

27. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment ratings for councils in England. [129841]

Meg Munn: The Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2006 results showed that:

79 per cent. of councils achieve three or four star performance;

77 per cent. of councils are improving strongly or improving well;

No councils are in the bottom Comprehensive Performance Assessment category.

The improvements in performance that local government continue to make has paved the way for the proposals for the new performance framework, outlined in our White Paper 'Strong and prosperous communities'.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Lifting Burdens taskforce is expected to publish its final report; and what the timetable is for the implementation of its recommendations. [129272]

Mr. Woolas: The Lifting Burdens taskforce plans to have a rolling programme of reviews looking at the requirements relating to individual Government Departments, service areas or outcomes. It is anticipated that these reviews will be published at regular intervals over the next two years.

As the taskforce carries out further reviews, it is envisaged that the Government Department(s) that are the originators of specific individual reporting items will respond to the relevant set of recommendations after consideration of each review.

Local Government Funding

28. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the funding formula for allocating grants to local authorities. [129842]

Mr. Woolas: During the recent consultation on the 2007-08 local government finance settlement, 169 representations were received from local authorities, local authority groups and hon. Members.

29. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to take forward the recommendations of the Lyons report. [129843]

Mr. Woolas: Sir Michael's report is substantial and wide-ranging and concludes there is no "golden key" solution. The Budget has set out the Government's position on a number of his short term recommendations. Sir Michael's individual recommendations will inform, and be taken account of within, the ongoing development of Government policy.

Flood Plains: Building

30. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes she expects to be built in the next five years on land in natural flood plains. [129844]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) is clear that only a very restricted range of development that is water-compatible or essential infrastructure should be permitted on the functional flood plain. In other flood risk areas, if the sequential risk-based approach set out in PPS25 shows that development cannot be directed to lower risk sites, the planning authority should test whether the need for the housing outweighs the flood risk, and it will be safe, taking into account the expected impacts of climate change, the ongoing availability of defences and the application of other flood risk reduction measures.

Business Rates Valuations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 848W, on business rates valuations, what the timetable is for the completion of the feasibility study on using automated valuation modelling. [127109]

Ruth Kelly: It is expected that this exploratory work will be completed in April 2007.

Business: Insurance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings she has had with *(a)* representatives of the insurance industry, *(b)* business groups and *(c)* local fire authorities on insurance costs to businesses; and if she will make a statement. [128854]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* The Secretary of State has not had any recent meetings with representatives of the insurance industry, business groups or local fire authorities on insurance costs to businesses, and has no plans to make a statement.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of parish and town councils in England levy a parish precept on the council tax. [129744]

Ruth Kelly: Statistical returns submitted by billing authorities to the Department record the aggregate amount of parish and town precepts for each billing authority area, but do not collect information on the number of councils setting such precepts or individual precept amounts.

Council Tax: B&Q DIY Superstores

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from B&Q plc on the council tax. [129752]

Ruth Kelly: We have identified two representations from B&Q plc received by this Department or its predecessor Department about council tax. Both expressed concern that people making home improvements would have to pay more council tax following revaluation. Both letters preceded the Government's decision to postpone council tax revaluation in England and our clear commitment that revaluation will not take place in the lifetime of this Parliament.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on managing her Department's and its predecessor Department's corporate identity and branding in each year since 2002. [127057]

Ruth Kelly: The information is as follows

	£
2002-03	52,117
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	4,330
2006-07	42,300

Departments: Overseas Workers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has any employees based outside the United Kingdom. [129768]

Ruth Kelly: No staff are based outside United Kingdom.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the £78 million announced for funding domestic violence sanctuaries by her Department in December 2006 was in addition to the previously announced funding for homelessness. [127065]

Ruth Kelly: The Department for Communities and Local Government strategy "Sustainable Communities: Homes for All" supported increased investment in

homelessness prevention, from £60 million in 2005-06 to £74 million in 2007-08 for homelessness prevention grants for local authorities and the voluntary sector. £47.2 million of this has been allocated to local authorities, which will be used to fund Sanctuary Schemes and other homelessness prevention schemes.

Gaming Clubs: Licensing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department and its predecessor has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on increasing the number of casino licences from those currently allowed under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 and its secondary legislation. [129750]

Ruth Kelly: There have been no such discussions.

Government Offices for the Regions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by each government office for the region in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [129754]

Ruth Kelly: Full-time equivalent (FTE) figures are not available for 1997. The total number of staff by headcount was 2,389. For 2007, please see the following table.

February 2007	*Headcount*	*FTE*
GO East	235	226.4
GO East Midlands	233	226.5
GO London	271	265.2
GO North East	266	256.3
GO North West	307	295.9
GO South East	282	265.3
GO South West	278	263.1
GO West Midlands	264	253.8
GO Yorkshire and Humber	248	236.0
Total GO Network	2,384	2,288.5

In 1997 the Government office network represented the interests of four Whitehall Departments. Today the network delivers on behalf of 10 Departments.

Hotels

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on hotels, if she will place in the Library copies of each representation. [129459]

Ruth Kelly: I have placed in the Library copies of each of the representations listed in the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W on hotels.

Housing: Construction

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring cost of implementing the Amendment to the Building and Approved Inspectors (Amendment) Regulations 2006, New Edition of Approved Document F, to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators; [126641]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Building (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2004 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators; [126653]

(3) what her most recent estimate is of the *(a)* one-off cost and *(b)* recurring costs of implementing the Building (Amendment) Regulations 2003 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [126670]

Angela E. Smith: The Building (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004 introduced part P of the Building Regulations (Electrical safety in dwellings) to help reduce the number of deaths, injuries and fires caused by faulty electrical installations. Prior to its introduction the Department produced a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) which estimated costs and benefits over a 10-year period, discounted at 3.5 per cent. to present value. The full RIA is available on this Department's website:

www.communities.gov.uk.

The estimated costs for part P are:

One off costs to businesses: negligible so not estimated

One off costs to regulators: negligible so not estimated

Recurring costs to businesses: £36.9 million per annum;

Recurring costs to building control bodies: £1.35 million per annum.

Over the 10-year period the RIA estimated the benefits from the reduction in deaths, injuries and fires as £475 million.

Amendment to the Building and Approved Inspectors (Amendment) Regulations 2006 and new edition of Approved Document F refer to the 2006 revisions of part L and Approved Document F of the Building Regulations. Part L deals with conservation of fuel and power, and Approved Document F gives technical guidance on ventilation of buildings. A regulatory impact assessment was carried out and is on the Department's website. It gives the following estimates of costs:

Part L

	£ million
One off cost to business	10
One off cost to regulators	0.5
Recurring cost to business	1,084.9
Recurring cost to regulators	0.05

The total cumulative saving over the lifetime of the Part L measures was estimated at £1,531.5 million.

Approved Document F

	£ million
One off cost to business	4.75
One off cost to regulators	0.56

Approved Document F

	£ million
Recurring cost to business	2.14
Recurring cost to regulators	[1]

[1] Not significantly greater than before.

The amendments will make a significant and cost-effective contribution to reducing carbon dioxide emissions from new buildings. The total benefits of the part F changes were estimated to be between £1.5 million to £5.2 million per year (average of £3.1 million).

The Building (Amendment) Regulations 2003 introduced revisions of part M and Approved Document M of the Building Regulations. Part M deals with access to and use of buildings. The amendments relate solely to buildings other than dwellings, and support, and complement, the aims of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA).

A regulatory impact assessment was carried out and is on the Department's website. It gives the following estimates:

	£ million
New buildings	
Recurring cost to business	120
Existing buildings	
Recurring cost to business	69.33
Recurring cost to regulators:	[1]

[1] It was estimated that, on average, an additional quarter to half full time equivalent member of staff may be required to carry out the additional functions, the cost of which will be reflected in building control charges.

One-off cost to business and regulators was not estimated separately in the RIA but was assumed to be nil, since the regulations did not incur administrative costs additional to or separate from those normally incurred by the building control process.

The changes were shown to deliver substantial benefits which far outweighed the costs. To put this into perspective the expected annual cost for new buildings of £120 million was estimated to provide benefits to the value of approximately £10 per annum for each of the estimated 11.7 million people with disabilities. In view of the wide range of personal and social benefits that would result from improved access for disabled people and taking account of additional accessibility benefits for other groups and businesses, the actual benefits of these proposals are expected to exceed this by a considerable margin.

Housing: Floods

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of new homes which have been built in high risk flood areas in the last year for which figures are available. [129758]

Ruth Kelly: In 2004, the most recent year for which data are available, 16,500 dwellings were built within flood risk areas. This is 11 per cent. of all dwellings built in 2004.

Flood risk is a major factor in the location of new development. The Government published a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS25) in December 2006 to strengthen and clarify earlier policy on this issue. Flood risk must be taken into account and carefully managed at all stages of the planning process.

Housing: West Midlands

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Birmingham were (i) demolished and (ii) built in each year since 1996, broken down by tenure. [124599]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested at various levels of disaggregation is available in Housing Statistics tables on the Communities and Local Government website.

(i) Conversion and demolitions (England) (Table 101)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/17/Table111_id1156017.xls

Due to the way estimates are compiled it is not possible to produce these at a regional or local authority level.

(ii) Housebuilding by tenure and region (Table 231)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/52/Table231_id1156052.xls

Housebuilding by local authority district and tenure (Table 253)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/66/Table253Excel860Kb_id1156066.xls

Due to the timing of when the information is collected the final tenure is not always known so some of the registered social landlord dwellings may be classed as 'private'.

Local Authority Charging

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on local authority charging, what the timetable is for the research into local authorities charging for pre-application advice and discussions. [129466]

Ruth Kelly: The Department has commissioned research into the cost of the planning service to local authorities, including the costs of non-fee related work such as pre-application advice and discussions. We will consider the research and plan to publish the results later this year.

Mapping Data and Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1355-56W, on mapping data and services, if she will list the functions which were transferred from the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office that accounted for the £1,160,000 of expenditure. [129468]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the Deputy Prime Minister's letter of appointment of 16 May 2006 from the Prime Minister, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the revenue was of each local authority with responsibility for parking enforcement in England from net income from *(a)* parking charges, *(b)* parking penalty notices and *(c)* balance of the Parking Places Revenue Account in 2006. [128651]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Information on net income from *(a)* parking charges and *(b)* parking penalty notices is not available. The balance of gross income from parking charges and parking penalty notices and gross expenditure for 2005-06 (for most recent year available) is provided in the table that has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unitary Councils

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she would approve a bid for unitary council status where a majority of local residents *(a)* in total and *(b)* participating had voted against the proposal in a referendum held under the Local Government Act 2003. [128594]

Mr. Woolas: As previously stated, proposals for unitary status will be implemented only where, in the Government's judgment, they meet the five criteria set out in the Invitation issues on 26 October 2006.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether 2008 elections will be *(a)* postponed and *(b)* cancelled for councils which are approved to move to unitary status. [129766]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 995W.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128255]

Mr. Hain: My Department and its agencies use the following postal companies to handle dispatched mail: DHL Global Mail, DX Network Services, Royal Mail and TNT Post UK Limited.

Firearms

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many legal firearms have been stolen in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [129638]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service for Northern Ireland does not hold information in the form requested, however the Chief Constable has provided in the following table details of burglary, robbery and theft offences in the last five financial years where the property stolen included firearms.

	Number of offences
2001-02	95
2002-03	103
2003-04	94
2004-05	71
2005-06	73
1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007	46

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Motoring Offences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many road traffic offences were recorded in Northern Ireland for drivers whose vehicles were registered in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* the Republic of Ireland and *(e)* other European countries in each of the last six years, broken down by country of vehicle registration; and what penalties were imposed on drivers in each category. [129650]

Paul Goggins: I have been informed by PSNI that information in respect of motoring offences committed involving foreign registered vehicles is recorded by driver ethnicity as opposed to vehicle origin, therefore it is not possible answer this question.

From 1 April 2007, PSNI will record offender nationality.

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to meet retired Royal Ulster Constabulary officers to discuss their views on the consequences of the conduct of Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland investigations. [127332]

Paul Goggins: The views of retired police officers were outlined during an Adjournment Debate (21 March) about the Police Ombudsman's role in investigations. A report by the Retired Police Officer's Association was presented to me following the debate, and I have agreed to meet representatives of the association at the earliest opportunity to discuss their concerns further.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadcasting Programmes: Children

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of hours per week of children's programming shown on each public service broadcaster channel; and if she will make a statement. [129172]

Mr. Woodward: The most recent figures available, as collected by Ofcom, are for the number of hours of children's programmes broadcast per week in 2006 and these are set out in the table.

	Hours per week for 2006
BBC1	9.53
BBC 2	27.52
Cbeebies	80.29
CBBC	72.02
ITV1[1]	14.03
Channel 4	6.43
FIVE	25.38

[1] Including GMTV.
Source:
Ofcom.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment her Department has made of the amount of children's programming commissioned by each public service broadcaster; and if she will make a statement. [129173]

Mr. Woodward: The most recent figures available for first run qualifying independent commissions, as collected by Ofcom, are set out in the following table:

Qualifying independent commissions for 2005

	Hours/minutes (average per week)
BBC1	0.37
BBC2	2.37
Cbeebies	0.10
CBBC	1.16
ITV1[1]	3.25
Channel 4	0
FIVE	2.01

[1]Including GMTV.
Source:
Ofcom.

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance was sought by the Casino Advisory Panel from her Department on how to test the willingness to license within a local authority applicant for a regional casino. [130350]

Mr. Caborn: The Casino Advisory Panel was set up to operate entirely independently of the Government. It was a matter for the panel how it interpreted the criteria.

The factors which the panel took into account when assessing each of the proposals before it against its remitted criteria are set out clearly in chapter 6 of the panel's report.

Cultural Heritage: Conferences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1158W, on the Institute for Public Policy Research, on what date the Identity, Culture and the Challenge of Diversity research was commissioned; on what dates the conference and seminar fees were paid; what the titles were of the conferences and seminars; what the purpose was of the secondment; and what the dates were of the secondment. [129338]

Mr. Lammy: Arts Council England did not commission the Identity, Culture and the Challenge of Diversity research; this was an IPPR project to which the Arts Council made a charitable donation.

The following table shows the title and date on which fees were paid for other conferences and seminars:

Title	*Date*
Oxford Media Convention	9 January 2003
Oxford Media Convention	13 January 2004
Race equality event	19 July 2004
Breakfast debate—"For Art's Sake: Society and the Arts in the 21st Century", Labour Party conference	27 September 2004
Oxford Media Convention	12 May 2005
Breakfast debate—"Creating Communities: Arts, Housing and regeneration", Creating Communities	26 September 2005
Oxford Media Convention	17 January 2006
Seminar—"Trusts: A new future for schools", Sponsorship of Trusts	2 February 2006

The purpose of the secondment was to cover a vacancy in the Arts Council's research team. The secondment was from 13 February 2006 to 31 January 2007.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what measures have been put in place in order to ensure that the targeted assistance scheme in Whitehaven is delivered effectively and that all of those persons assessed by her Department as eligible under the terms of the scheme *(a)* are contacted in a suitable format and *(b)* receive assistance appropriate to their needs; [129170]

(2) by what measures those eligible for the targeted assistance scheme are to be identified in Whitehaven. [129171]

Mr. Woodward: The Government and BBC are jointly conducting the procurement process to appoint an operator to deliver the help scheme in Whitehaven and more generally.

Digital UK is responsible for generic communications and has written to households in Whitehaven explaining the Help Scheme and asking those who think they are eligible to apply. This will be supported by local advertising. The letter and leaflets are available in large print, audio or Braille, or in another language.

Once appointed, the operator will confirm eligibility of those who have responded to the Digital UK letter and contact them about the support available.

Subject to parliamentary progress, DWP data released in accordance with the Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Bill will be used to verify eligibility in Whitehaven.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has made an estimate of the number of online casinos that will be based in the UK from September 2007; what the Gambling Commission's most recent estimate is of the number of remote casino operators based on-shore from September 2007; what discussions she has held with Ministers at HM Treasury on the taxation of online casinos; and if she will make a statement. [130036]

Mr. Caborn: Neither DCMS nor the Gambling Commission has made a formal estimate of the number of online casinos that will be based in Great Britain from September 2007. However, from September 2007, the Gambling Commission will have records of all new holders of remote operating licences. The Secretary of State regularly discusses a wide range of subjects with Treasury Ministers.

Licensed Premises

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed premises there are in England and Wales, broken down by *(a)* off licence and *(b)* on licence. [129179]

Mr. Woodward: The Licensing Statistical Bulletin published by DCMS in 2004 showed that there were 159,952 licensed premises in England and Wales at 30 June 2004. Broken down, there were 113,370 on-licensed premises and 46,582 off-licensed premises.

Under the former licensing system, premises with an on-licence would usually also include permission to make off-sales. We expect most of these would have converted those permissions to their new licence.

Information for the next Licensing Statistical Bulletin is expected to be collected later this year.

Licensed Premises: Reviews

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what response her Department has made of the Licensing Review Panel's conclusions; and which recommendations she expects to be implemented. [130128]

Mr. Woodward: Copies of the Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel's final report were placed in the Libraries of the House on 25 January. We are currently assessing the implications of all the panel's detailed conclusions and recommendations and will provide a response shortly. Before reaching a final decision about implementing any changes to the fees regime and related issues, we will undertake a full public consultation so that fee payers, local authorities and the public can help to inform future policy.

Lottery Funding

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the awards made for sports-related activities in Rotherham in each of the last two years. [129848]

Mr. Caborn: The table shows the Exchequer and Lottery funding which Sport England and Sportsmatch have awarded to Rotherham in each of the last two full years.

	Organisation name	*Project title*	*Amount (£)*	*Exchequer/Lottery funding*
2004-05	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Active Ages	199,614	Lottery
2004-05	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Community Athletics Refurbishment Programme	57,000	Lottery
2004-05	National Rounders Association	Rounders (Whole Sport Plan)	450,000	Lottery
2004-05	Rotherham Town Cricket Club	—	24,090	Exchequer
2005-06	Welbeck Tennis Club	—	12,000	Exchequer
2005	Rotherham Metro Swimming	—	3,250	Exchequer—Sportsmatch
2005	Rotherham Rugby Union Football Club	—	50,000	Exchequer—Sportsmatch
2006	Sheffield Sharks	Rugby league project based in Rotherham	6,000	Exchequer—Sportsmatch
2006	Rotherham United Football Club	Football in the Community	3,000	Exchequer—Sportsmatch

Museums and Galleries: Gloucester

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress she has made in her consideration of the case for providing funding for the Waterways Museum at Gloucester to enable it to provide free entry; and if she will make a statement. [129285]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* The Waterways Trust is an independent charitable trust that runs three Waterways Museums, including the one at Gloucester. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has provided substantial support and advice to the Waterways Trust and Museums which could help them to realise their potential to support learning and community activities.

As with other independent museums, it is for the trustees of the Waterways Museums to identify the most appropriate business model to secure their financial viability and the preservation of their collections. My Department has no plans to provide funding for the Waterways Museums.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether mine clearing vehicles *(a)* are and *(b)* are planned to be in use in Afghanistan. [128283]

Mr. Ingram: During war-fighting operations, minefields are not cleared but are breached in circumstances where they are an obstacle to the freedom of manoeuvre of our armed forces or present a potential threat to our troops. Comprehensive mine clearance is generally undertaken by humanitarian organisations on non-war-fighting operations, rather than by the armed forces. As the armed forces are not involved in clearance, there is no requirement for mine clearing vehicles in Afghanistan. The UK Task Force does, however, have a specific Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Task Force, which includes vehicles that can convey the EOD team to a mine incident.

Armed Forces

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel are *(a)* attached to and *(b)* working in his Department, broken down by rank. [128327]

Derek Twigg: It is not possible to determine how many service personnel are attached to or working in the Department. Data are held giving the strength of the UK regular forces broken down by budgetary area and rank, which broadly show the number of service personnel working in each operational and support area. All data are shown by paid rank.

UK regular forces officers by top level budget and NATO rank[1] at 1 April 2006

	OF-9	OF-8	OF-7	OF-6	OF-5	OF-4	OF-3	OF-2	OF-1	OF-(D)	Number Total
Operational TLBs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,800
Commander-in-Chief Fleet[2]	[3]—	[3]—	10	40	120	490	1,600	2,600	730	50	5,640
Commander-in-Chief Land	[3]—	[3]—	20	50	160	550	2,180	3,340	1,280	[3]—	7,580
General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	40	160	230	60	[3]—	500
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command	[3]—	[3]—	10	20	70	330	1,220	2,540	280	[3]—	4,470
Chief of Joint Operations	[3]—	[3]—	10	10	40	140	310	280	30	[3]—	800
Support TLBs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,750
Adjutant General	[3]—	[3]—	10	50	160	440	1,480	950	500	880	4,480
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command	[3]—	[3]—	10	20	80	320	600	1,130	720	80	2,970
Defence Logistics Organisation	[3]—	[3]—	10	30	130	360	700	470	20	[3]—	1,730
Central	[3]—	10	30	100	400	1,220	1,300	820	50	[3]—	3,930
Defence Estates	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	20	20	10	[3]—	[3]—	60
Corporate Science and Technology	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Defence Procurement Agency	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	10	30	120	320	110	[3]—	[3]—	590
Trading Funds	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	20	60	10	[3]—	[3]—	90
Defence Science and Technology Laboratories	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	20	60	10	[3]—	[3]—	80
Meteorological Office	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
UK Hydrographic Office	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Defence Aviation Repair Agency	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	20
Army Base Repair Organisation	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Unallocated	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	10	20	30	[3]—	[3]—	60

[1] No Service have personnel at NATO Rank OF-10.
[2] 2nd Sea Lord/Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command TLB has closed, personnel now belong to Commander-in-Chief Fleet TLB. Operational and support personnel are therefore consolidated within the one Navy TLB.
[3] zero or rounded to zero.

Notes:
1. Due to the introduction of a new Personnel Administration System for RAF, 1 April 2006 RAF Budgetary data are provisional and subject to review.
2. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Source:
DASA (Tri-Service)

UK regular forces other ranks by top level budget and NATO rank[1] at 1 April 2006

	OR-9	OR-8[2]	OR-7	OR-6	OR-4	OR-3[2,3]	OR-2	OR-1[2]	Number Total
Operational TLBs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	126,440
Commander-in-Chief Fleet[2]	590	680	3,150	3,880	5,740	200	13,250	10	27,500
Commander-in-Chief Land	970	2,790	4,100	7,690	11,750	12,740	26,050	840	66,930
General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland	70	200	250	520	890	910	1,660	30	4,530
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command	670	30	1,960	4,100	5,930	100	11,090	50	23,940
Chief of Joint Operations	160	100	300	550	880	310	1,280	20	3540
Support TLBs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,320

UK regular forces: other ranks by top level budget and NATO rank[1] at 1 April 2006

	OR-9	OR-8[2]	OR-7	OR-6	OR-5	OR-3[3,4]	OR-2	OR-1[3]	Number Total
Adjutant General	390	930	1,090	1,690	2,430	960	930	9,840	18,220
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command	220	40	790	1,650	1,780	40	1,080	940	6,530
Defence Logistics Organisation	370	260	1,240	780	670	90	510	[5]—	3,910
Central	330	470	1,000	1,580	2,000	490	1,200	40	7,110
Defence Estates	20	30	10	10	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	80
Corporate Science and Technology	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Defence Procurement Agency	80	60	200	110	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	460
Trading Funds	[5]—	[5]—	10	10	10	[5]—	10	[5]—	50
Defence Science and Technology Laboratories	[5]—	[5]—	10	10	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	20
Meteorological Office	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
UK Hydrographic Office	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Defence Aviation Repair Agency	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	10	10	[5]—	10	[5]—	30
Army Base Repair Organisation	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Unallocated	10	[5]—	20	40	60	[5]—	210	[5]—	340

[1] No Service have personnel at NATO Rank OF-10.
[2] 2nd Sea Lord/Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command TLB has closed, personnel now belong to Commander-in-Chief Fleet TLB. Operational and support personnel are therefore consolidated within the one Navy TLB.
[3] The Naval Service has no personnel at NATO Ranks OR-1 or OR-3
[4] The Royal Air Force has no personnel at NATO Ranks OR-3 or OR-4
[5] zero or rounded to zero.

Notes:
1. Due to the introduction of a new Personnel Administration System for RAF, 1 April 2006 RAF Budgetary data are provisional and subject to review.
2. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Source:
DASA (Tri-Service)

Armed Forces: Divorce

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were granted a divorce in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 who (i) have since left the armed forces and (ii) are still serving. [122196]

Derek Twigg: The following tables provide the number of Army and RAF personnel divorcing in 2005 and 2006, broken down by divorcees who have subsequently left the armed forces and those still serving. Naval service data are not available as the Naval service groups 'Separated', 'Divorced' and 'Widowed' together.

Figures are for UK regular forces, and therefore exclude Gurkhas, full-time reserve service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. Figures are for trained and untrained personnel excluding officer designates.

The term 'divorce' includes 'decree absolute' and 'marriage annulled'. It excludes 'decree nisi' and individuals who are separated.

Army

	2005	2006
Number of divorces	1,040	900
Divorcees still serving as at 1 January 2007	890	870
Divorcees subsequently leaving the armed forces	160	40

RAF

	2005	2006
Number of divorces	570	n/a
Divorcees still serving as at 1 January 2007	480	n/a
Divorcees subsequently leaving the armed forces	90	n/a

Notes:
'n/a' denotes not available. Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system, RAF data are not available.
Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

In compiling this data a small error has been discovered in the RAF data given in my reply of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 202W, to the hon. Member for Forest Dean (Mr. Harper) for which I apologise.

The error does not substantially alter the estimates of divorce rates in the RAF.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many house fires have been reported due to faulty Modern Housing Solutions property. [129692]

Derek Twigg: During the past 12 months there have been five fires in MHS managed properties, two of which were minor and attributed to employee carelessness rather than property defect. The remaining three serious fires resulted in severe property damage. One was caused deliberately by an intruder, another attributed to occupant carelessness, and a third was occasioned by a faulty electrical installation (not attributable to MHS but as a result of inherited defects from the previous maintenance regime).

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* a graduate of Sandhurst and *(b)* a newly-commissioned officer promoted through the ranks is expected to contribute to the cost of their regimental dress uniform. [128274]

Derek Twigg: All newly commissioned officers, whether graduates from Sandhurst or those promoted from the ranks, are provided with uniform and entitled to the same initial outfit allowance to enable them to perform their duties. The allowance does not vary according to the method of entry but does vary according to the Regiment or Corps to which they belong. Any additional cost that individuals may incur over and above the allowance is a private matter.

Army Board: Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has taken steps to ensure goods provided to members of the Army Board are fair trade. [128807]

Derek Twigg: Unless it is exempt, all public procurement must comply with the EC Public Procurement Regulations, which preclude the ability to specify a requirement as fair trade as it is considered anti-competition. It is, therefore, not legally possible to ensure that goods provided to the Army Board or the wider public sector are fair trade. However, the Department's policy encourages full consideration to be given to fair trade products whenever they meet the relevant legitimate criteria.

Army: Recruitment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruits the Army is seeking to attract to *(a)* regular service and *(b)* officer cadet training in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [129731]

Derek Twigg: The recruitment target for soldiers (regular service) is 13,817 (2007-08) and 14,104 (2008-09).

The recruitment target for officer cadet training (direct entry officers) is 652 (2007-08) and 658 (2008-09).

Bosnia: Kosovo

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and in what role British troops remain in *(a)* Bosnia and *(b)* Kosovo; and whether there are plans (i) to reduce numbers stationed and (ii) to change the operational remit in each location. [129726]

Mr. Ingram: Details of UK troop reductions in Bosnia-Herzegovina were provided in my statement on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1083. Following European force transition, there will be fewer than 50 UK personnel working within Bosnia-Herzegovina. This grouping will provide further support to the European force and NATO headquarters and the peace support operations training centre in Sarajevo.

There are approximately 175 UK military personnel in Kosovo, the majority of whom provide intelligence support to the NATO led Kosovo force. In addition, a small number of staff contribute to security sector reform and work within the Office of the Kosovo Protection Corps Coordinator, the UN Mission in Kosovo and the British Office. The UK has no plans to reduce personnel numbers within Kosovo in the foreseeable future or to change our operational remit. We will keep our contribution under review in order to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate.

We will also maintain our commitment to the pan-Balkans operational reserve force.

Defence Diversification Agency

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Defence Diversification Agency. [129480]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The Department is in formal consultation with the trade unions and industry over proposals to close the Defence Diversification Agency. The House will be informed of the outcome from this process in due course.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the defence planned programme budget (excluding funds from the Unallocated Special Reserve) was used to finance operations in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* the Balkans and *(d)* other operations in each of the last six years. [121873]

Mr. Ingram: Net additional costs of military operations are not normally funded from the Defence core programme budget. Since 2001-02, the net additional costs of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Sierra Leone, the Gulf, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been funded from the Treasury Reserve.

No additional funding is sought for those items which would normally be paid for from the core programme budget, such as salaries, and information is not available on those sunk defence costs which contributed to operations.

The costs of operations carried out at the request of other organisations, e.g. UN peacekeeping/observer operations and DfID humanitarian operations, are also recovered from the requesting authority on a similar basis. Such operations are similarly not, therefore, a cost to the Department.

The only circumstance in which the Department does not raise charges is for the evacuation of UK non-combatant personnel from a place of danger to the nearest place of safety, such as last year's evacuation from the Lebanon to Cyprus. As we do not recover costs for such operations, we do not record their costs separately from those within the Defence programme.

Departments: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which flags are flown from Ministry of Defence buildings on which days. [129728]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is held centrally only for MOD main building, at which the Union flag, the White Ensign, the Army flag, the Royal Air Force Ensign, and two joint service flags are flown on a daily basis. An additional four Union flags are flown on flag days.

All Service and major commands and headquarters are required to fly the Union Flag daily in accordance with Queen's Regulations. In addition, they are permitted to fly flags signifying the relevant single service and commander, corps, regimental and station flags.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Union flag is flown from the Ministry of Defence main building on each day of the year. [129729]

Derek Twigg: The Union flag is flown daily on the Ministry of Defence main building.

EH101 Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Merlin 1 helicopters are *(a)* in service, *(b)* under repair and *(c)* being cannibalised for parts; and if he will make a statement. [124595]

Mr. Ingram: On 1 March 2007, the details for the Royal Navy's Merlin helicopter fleet were as follows:

Helicopter type	*Departmental fleet*	*In service*	*Under repair*	*Other*
Merlin Mk 1	42	26	7	9

"In service" aircraft are those in the forward fleet and available to the front line and training units. Aircraft "Under repair" are those in the depth fleet which are undergoing planned routine depth maintenance. "Other" aircraft are those awaiting depth maintenance; in long-term storage; undergoing trials/ development activity or subject to modifications with industry.

Within the forward fleet controlled cannibalisation is conducted as part of normal business. Cannibalised aircraft are routinely returned to service when the necessary spare parts become available. Of the aircraft in the "Under repair" category, four are subject to controlled cannibalisation to support aircraft maintenance.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Eurofighter Typhoons are to be supplied to the Royal Air Force; what the estimated cost is of such Eurofighter Typhoons; and if he will make a statement. [129360]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom has, to date, contracted for 144 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft for the Royal Air Force. A decision on the third production buy of the aircraft, known as tranche 3, has still to be taken and discussions with partner nations and industry are expected to continue during 2007. The unit production cost of tranche 1 and 2 Eurofighter Typhoon, as published in Major Projects Report 2006, is £66.7 million.

Harrier GR7

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of *(a)* the Royal Navy's fleet air arm and *(b)* the role of the Harrier GR7 aircraft; and whether there are any proposals to replace the existing Harrier aircraft. [129775]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The fleet air arm will remain a vital element of the Royal Navy and will continue to be equipped with a range of highly capable aircraft fulfilling a variety of operational roles. The Harrier GR7 is a combat aircraft which is optimised for ground attack operations. The GR7 is currently undergoing a series of major improvements which will see the aircraft redesignated as the Harrier GR9.

Identification Friend or Foe Systems

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 54W, on identification friend/ foe systems, why he has no plans to fit Successor IFF to Hercules C130J and Tornado GR4 aircraft; and whether he plans to fit Successor IFF to Typhoon aircraft. [129788]

Mr. Ingram: To confirm the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 54W, Tornado GR4 is in the process of being fitted with the Successor Identification Friend or Foe (SIFF) system transponder capability.

Hercules C130J and Typhoon aircraft are both supplied with an integrated IFF capability that is fully compatible and inter-operable with SIFF.

Iraq and Afghanistan

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces have received medical treatment in military hospitals in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since the invasion of the country concerned; and how many members of the armed forces serving in each country (i) were returned to the UK for medical treatment and (ii) had their medical treatment carried out in another country, broken down by country, over the same period. [128128]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence publishes data on battle and non-battle casualties that have resulted from our operations in Iraq from March 2003 and Afghanistan since January 2006. The best centrally available casualty statistics can be found on the Ministry of Defence website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets

Data on the destination of aeromedical evacuations are held centrally only when it involved moving a patient out of the region since 1 January 2006. They do not, for example, include shorter evacuations such as those to the US medical facility at Bald in Iraq or from Afghanistan to Seeb in Oman. A number of personnel from both theatres are evacuated to the hospital at the Ramstein US airbase in Germany. These personnel are normally those who have been treated in US hospitals in theatre and are being medically evacuated through US channels, or those for whom domestically it is better to be treated in Germany (for example if they are normally stationed there).

Iraq

Between March 2003 and 31 December 2005 the total number of UK military and civilian personnel who were treated at the Shaibah "Role 3" field hospital in Iraq was 6,609. Of these, 226 were categorised as wounded in action, including as a result of hostile action, and 6,383 were categorised as suffering from disease or non-battle injuries.

Between March 2003 and 31 December 2005 some 4,000 military and civilian personnel (including a small number of Iraqis) were aeromedically evacuated from Iraq on medical grounds, whatever the reason.

On 1 January 2006 improved casualty reporting processes were implemented. Between 1 January 2006 and 28 February 2007:

775 UK military personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Iraq on medical grounds, whatever the reason; of these:

723 service personnel were evacuated to the UK.

52 service personnel were evacuated to Ramstein in Germany.

142 UK military and civilian personnel were admitted to UK field hospitals and categorised as wounded in action.

1,353 UK military and civilian personnel were admitted to UK field hospitals for disease or non-battle injuries.

Afghanistan

For the period between 1 January 2006 and 28 February 2007:

312 UK military personnel were aeromedically evacuated from Afghanistan on medical grounds, whatever the reason; of these:

299 service personnel were evacuated to the UK.

13 service personnel were evacuated to Ramstein in Germany.

108 UK military and civilian personnel were admitted to UK field hospitals and categorised as wounded in action.

206 UK military and civilian personnel were admitted to UK field hospitals for disease or non-battle injuries.

A figure for those evacuated or admitted to hospital prior to these dates is not centrally available. The Defence Analytical Service Agency is currently reviewing available historic aeromedical data and these will be published on the website once the process is complete.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the deaths of British soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan have been attributed to defective rifles. [129049]

Mr. Ingram: None of the fatalities of British soldiers in Iraq since 2003, and Afghanistan since 2001 have been recorded as attributed to defective rifles.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made with the development of the US-UK Joint Strike Fighter; and how much the project has cost. [129735]

Mr. Ingram: The Joint Strike Fighter programme remains on schedule with the first development aircraft completing its ninth flight including full after-burner test in flight. The UK has now received the necessary assurances on technology transfer from the US; this will allow the UK to meet its operational sovereignty requirements. The next phase of the programme has now come into effect, with the UK, US and other international partners having signed up to the production, sustainment and follow-on development memorandum of understanding with the US.

At February 2007 £1.062 billion has been incurred on the JSF project covering concept, assessment and demonstration phases.

Military Decorations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many medals for gallantry have been *(a)* awarded and *(b)* awarded posthumously since 2003. [129725]

Derek Twigg: Awards for gallantry and meritorious service on operations are published routinely in the Defence Supplement of the *London Gazette*, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The relevant references from 2003 to date are as follows:

Date	*Issue*
29 April 2003	No. 56920
30 September 2003	No. 57070
31 October 2003	No. 57100
23 April 2004	No. 57269
7 September 2004	No. 57402
18 March 2005	No. 57587
18 March 2005	No. 57588
9 September 2005	No. 57751
24 March 2006	No. 57836
8 September 2006	No. 58092
15 December 2006	No. 58182
15 December 2006	No. 58183

Awards made posthumously are included in the main lists with the suffix 'killed in action' following an individual's name.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Families

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the process for removing failed asylum seeker families. [127906]

Mr. Byrne: The process for removing failed asylum seeker families is set out in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) Family Removals Policy notice (EPU 2/06), and the Operational Enforcement Manual chapter 58—Family Detention Visits, both of which are publicly available on the IND website.

Departments: Diaries

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who has been allowed access to diaries of Ministers and officials in his Department in the last three months. [129817]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Office employs approximately 78,000 officials. Identifying who would have access to each official's diary would be a disproportionate cost. Access to ministerial diaries is limited to those persons who support Ministers in performing their ministerial duties.

Departments: Ministers

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Ministers in his Department have had meetings with former Ministers of the Department in the last three months. [129824]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Home Office Ministers meet regularly with ministerial colleagues and former ministerial colleagues in the course of performing their ministerial duties. In so doing, each acts in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128013]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is committed to meeting all the targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government estate, which include targets to reduce waste and increase recycling. Actions that have been taken specifically on paper include the purchase of recycled paper as standard for internal printing and photocopying, and the setting of many printers to automatically print double-sided. We have also run articles on the Home Office intranet advising staff about reducing paper wastage by, for example, not printing off e-mails. Staff are also encouraged to re-use paper as scrap, where possible, before putting it in the recycling facilities.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the expenditure threshold is above which spending decisions by his Department require Treasury approval. [125760]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office requires specific Treasury approval to commit resources and/or incur expenditure above the following thresholds:

Capital projects—information technology, lands and buildings, on a private finance initiative basis or otherwise—£100,000,000;

Disposal of fixed assets—£5,000,000;

Losses:

Write-offs—£25,000,000

Bad debts—£10,000,000

Impairments—£10,000,000

Fraud/theft—£5,000,000

Provisions—£5,000,000

Abandoned/waived claims—£50,000

Gifts (cash or assets)—£100,000

Indemnities—£50,000

Compensation payments—£20,000

Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo before deporting foreign nationals to that country; and if he will make a statement. [127864]

Mr. Byrne: Every asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual claimant. Information about the conditions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including the security situation, is obtained from a wide range of governmental and non-governmental sources, human rights organisations and the media. This information is published in regularly updated Home Office Country of Origin Information Reports. The latest Country of Origin Information Report on the Democratic Republic of Congo was published on 14 February 2007, and can be accessed on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

It is important for the integrity of our asylum system and to prevent unfounded applications that we are able to enforce the return of those who have no right to remain in the UK. The asylum decision making and independent appeals system exist to consider in each case whether the individual claimant would be at risk in their country of origin and we will only seek to return those who have been found not to need our protection.

Deportation: Terrorism

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported from the UK since 24 August 2005 on the ground that their presence is not conducive to the public good due to their involvement in fomenting or provoking others to commit acts of terrorism. [127003]

Mr. Byrne: Since 24 August 2005 no individuals have been deported from the UK specifically on the ground of involvement in fomenting or provoking others to commit acts of terrorism. However, such acts come within the scope of the power to deport a person because their presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good and are listed under the "unacceptable behaviour" (UB) provisions announced on 24 August 2005. To date there has been one deportation on UB grounds.

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultations his Department held with community representatives before he announced the proposed new levels of fees for visas and in-country fee levels. [127401]

Mr. Byrne: A public consultation was conducted for an eight week period between 30 October and 22 December. The consultation document was available on the Home Office website and over 3,000 copies were sent to individuals and organisations. Almost 300 documents were sent to community representatives and another 180 were sent to foreign embassies and missions.

340 responses to the consultation document were received in total, of which 10 were from community representative groups and six from foreign embassies.

In addition, we ran 13 sector based stakeholder events with over 400 participants. These included key stakeholders in the heath and social care, education and business sectors, as well as diplomats and representatives of the travel and tourism sector.

A full copy of the publication 'A Response to the Consultation on a New Charging Regime for Immigration and Nationality Fees' can be found on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Golden Arrow Communications

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with Golden Arrow Communications. [129823]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* A review of ministerial diaries has indicated that no current Home Office Minister has met with representatives of Golden Arrow Communications in their official capacity. The Home Office employs approximately 78,000 officials. Identifying which of these officials have held meetings with representatives from Golden Arrow Communications could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration Controls: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration control staff are deployed in each Northern Ireland airport; where those staff are based; and what arrangements are in place for transporting such staff to their places of work. [128026]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* There are 14 immigration officers and two chief immigration officers who are all based at Belfast International airport.

These staff are also deployed to Belfast City and Derry airports when required.

All staff are responsible for their own travel arrangements to their places of work.

Immigration: Appeals

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the treatment of rape victims in immigration appeal hearings; what guidelines are in place for immigration judges in considering such claims; if he will commission research into this matter; and if he will make a statement. [129573]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) has considered the recent report 'Misjudging Rape: Breaching Gender Guidelines and International Law in Asylum Appeals' published by the Black Women's Rape Action Project (BWRAP) and Women Against Rape. Additionally, it has recently received representations on similar issues from stakeholders groups such as Asylum Aid and the Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture.

The BWRAP report recommended that the Asylum Gender Guidelines (2000) be applied by immigration judges in all asylum appeals where rape is cited in the grounds of appeal. The guidelines never had binding authority on the tribunal and are out of date in respect of current law. The guidelines are framed very much as a statement of what the law is on particular aspects of a refugee claim. It is not the role of the tribunal to make statements on the law, save through its jurisprudence.

Immigration judges are independent members of the judiciary who determine cases on the evidence that is placed before them. Judicial training is facilitated by senior and experienced members of the judiciary. All immigration judges receive training in diversity and refugee law and are encouraged to keep up to date with legal developments both in the UK and nationally. All judiciary have access to the Judicial Studies Board (JSB) Equal Treatment Benchbook as well as country guidance determinations, Home Office country reports and wider information, and case law of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and higher courts.

There are currently no plans for the DCA to commission research into this area. It is not for the AIT, as an independent tribunal, to commission objective research into such issues.

National Crime Squad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests were made and *(b)* convictions were secured by the National Crime Squad in each year since 1998, broken down by offence. [128785]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* The data available are for the four NCS threat areas, as shown in the following table. The data between 1998-89 and 2001-02 are not complete.

National crime squad—performance data

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Arrests								
Class A drug trafficking	—	—	450	512	570	674	629	562
Organised immigration crime	—	—	0	31	98	115	147	188
Hi-tech crime	—	—	0	29	28	55	54	45
Other crime	—	—	488	306	200	92	157	129
(a) Total number of arrests	1,027	854	938	878	896	936	987	924
Charged and prosecuted								
Class A drug trafficking	—	—	—	—	402	445	417	380
Organised immigration crime	—	—	—	—	44	40	71	43
Hi-tech crime	—	—	—	—	28	37	29	16
Other crime	—	—	—	—	117	47	74	81
Total number charged and prosecuted	685	583	577	585	591	569	591	520
Convictions								
Class A drug trafficking	—	—	—	—	293	238	219	309
Organised immigration crime	—	—	—	—	6	19	29	54
Hi-tech crime	—	—	—	—	0	9	6	14
Other crime	—	—	—	—	59	69	32	27
(b) Total number of persons convicted	—	—	—	—	358	335	286	404

North Sea Camp Prison: Lincolnshire

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what capital funding he plans to commit to North Sea Camp Prison, Lincolnshire in each of the next three financial years. [124132]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A sewerage and drainage repairs scheme is planned for 2008 with a current estimated cost of £769,000. No other schemes are currently planned for the next three financial years.

Offenders: Suspended Sentences

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders convicted of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* aggravated bodily harm, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* supplying heroin, *(e)* grievous bodily harm, *(f)* theft from the person and *(g)* receiving stolen goods received non-custodial sentences in each year since 1999. [126946]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is contained in the following table; 2006 data will be available in the autumn.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Offenders[1] sentenced to non-custodial sentences[2] for various offences. England and Wales

Offence	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Burglary							
Number sentenced	14,834	12,887	12,079	12,920	13,419	13,225	12,694
Percentage of all sentenced	*50.6*	*48.3*	*49.0*	*49.0*	*52.9*	*54.8*	*56.0*
Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm[3]							
Number sentenced	13,007	12,169	10,783	11,007	11,110	10,581	10,874
Percentage of all sentenced	*74.1*	*72.4*	*71.2*	*72.9*	*73.6*	*71.8*	*68.1*
Robbery							
Number sentenced	1,531	1,572	2,040	1,824	2,154	2,417	2,672
Percentage of all sentenced	*27.1*	*26.4*	*29.8*	*23.6*	*29.4*	*32.2*	*37.4*

Offenders[1] sentenced to non-custodial sentences[2] for various offences, England and Wales

Offence	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Supplying heroin[4]							
Number sentenced	306	321	351	323	456	446	572
Percentage of all sentenced	*15.0*	*14.4*	*15.7*	*14.8*	*18.5*	*17.5*	*24.1*
Wounding etc with intent to do grievous bodily harm							
Number sentenced	120	112	131	141	118	139	135
Percentage of all sentenced	*8.5*	*8.2*	*9.2*	*9.2*	*7.9*	*8.2*	*8.1*
Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm[3]							
Number sentenced	2,191	2,000	1,853	2,056	2,084	1,919	1,844
Percentage of all sentenced	*47.0*	*44.3*	*41.9*	*44.2*	*46.4*	*44.0*	*43.2*
Theft from the person							
Number sentenced	4,034	3,861	4,394	4,492	4,623	4,664	4,571
Percentage of all sentenced	*65.1*	*62.7*	*66.7*	*65.2*	*66.8*	*67.4*	*68.8*
Receiving stolen goods							
Number sentenced	10,407	8,812	7,871	7,820	7,308	6,720	5,802
Percentage of all sentenced	*77.2*	*76.4*	*76.8*	*75.8*	*76.8*	*77.6*	*78.0*

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentence and otherwise dealt with (but excluding suspended sentence).
[3] Including racially and religiously aggravated offences.
[4] Including offences of possession with intent to supply.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Home Office

Passports: Children

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had on the compilation of a fingerprint database for children between the ages of 11 and 15 who apply for a passport; and if he will make a statement. [128688]

Joan Ryan: As set out in the Strategic Action Plan for the National Identity Scheme published in December 2006, the Identity and Passport Service has anticipated that it may be necessary to record biometrics for passports issued to children over the age of 11 but no final decision has been taken on this.

At present, EU regulations specify no minimum age for the recording of fingerprint biometrics. The United Kingdom has participated in preliminary discussions with our EU partners concerning the establishment of a minimum age for the recording of fingerprint biometrics in passports.

Passports: Disabled

Mr. Heban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements his Department is making for disabled first-time passport applicants to attend interviews at Identity Passport Service offices; and if he will make a statement. [120390]

Joan Ryan: All interview offices are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. For example, they will have hearing loops and a wheelchair user will be able to manoeuvre a wheelchair anywhere within the public areas of an interview office.

Those people who need to have an interview as part of the application process will be sent a letter asking them to telephone IPS to make an appointment at one of the 69 interview offices. The letter asks the applicant to tell IPS if they have any particular requirements, for example, if they have a hearing impairment or learning difficulties. The applicant will also be sent a leaflet that explains the interview process, confirms that they should tell us of any particular requirements they have and gives examples.

When an applicant, or their representative, telephones our call centre to make an interview appointment, the caller will be asked if the applicant has any particular requirements.

Passports: Personation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to combat identity fraud in the process of issuing passports. [129622]

Joan Ryan: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has developed a comprehensive counter fraud strategy to combat identity fraud in the passport issuing process. This strategy includes:

checking biographical information to ensure that the identity claimed on the application form is real, living, and can be linked to the customer through cross checks against a range of public and private sector databases

the development of facial recognition systems to check applicant images against a database of images of suspected fraudsters

checking applicants against increasingly sophisticated internal watch files including the database of passports reported lost or stolen

strengthening its business processes for identity authentication, and training and support for passport examiners and specialist fraud units

interviews for all first-time adult customers.

These measures are only the latest in a long running programme of counter fraud initiatives developed by IPS. In the last five years IPS has:

Significantly increased security in passport book through the development and issue from last year of the ePassport which incorporates an RF chip and other advanced physical security features.

From 2002 created a database of around 750,000 infant death records to counter "Day of the Jackal" type fraud.

Introduced secure delivery of passports to customers from February 2004 resulting in an 80 per cent. reduction in losses of passport in the post.

Created better arrangements for the reporting, recording and sharing of data on lost/stolen passports. This database of around 920,000 records is now shared with UK border control and border control authorities worldwide via Interpol.

Established fraud and intelligence units in each of its seven passport issuing offices and provided professional, accredited training for all investigators.

Introduced the Passport Validation Service which enables approved government agencies to validate the status of a UK passport which has been presented to them as evidence of identity. The service is also available to organisations regulated by the Financial Services Authority that have to comply with the "Know Your Customer" statement of good practice requirements.

On an operational level, IPS are using intelligence received and data on known frauds to actively manage passport fraud identified after the issue of the passport. It is currently investigating some 2000 cases. Utilising intelligence on known fraud patterns, other fraud will be identified through the searches IPS are conducting on its database of 50 million passport records. This will be a similar set of exercises to that successfully conducted on infant deaths. This is an ongoing process and will be strengthened in November 2007 when IPS has access to adult death information. IPS are also developing plans to use facial recognition to check for duplicate identity fraud.

All the information uncovered on fraudulently obtained passports is passed to the UK Immigration Service for use at all UK ports. Experience shows that this is successful in disrupting criminal activities.

Passports: Photographs

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1363W, on passports: photographs, how many and what proportion of applications were rejected from applicants living in Scotland in each of the last three years. [125494]

Joan Ryan: Data on passport photograph rejections are not kept in a way that allows a figure to be obtained for a specific area. Although passport applications originating from Scotland are dealt with by the Glasgow passport office, they also deal with applications emanating from elsewhere in the UK as a consequence of their catchment area which includes part of England. Additionally, IPS routinely transfers work between offices in order to provide the most efficient and effective service to the public.

The figures that are available show that the reject rate for the Glasgow office is in keeping with the overall reject rate of around 5.5 to 6 per cent.

Passports: Somerset

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department had with Somerset county council before determining the location of passport interview centres. [128941]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Consultation on the proposed location of passport remote interview facilities in sparsely populated parts of the UK, as defined by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), was undertaken with local and regional bodies in those areas. Somerset is not defined as a sparsely populated area in this context.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of hosting remote access facilities for passport interview centres in Frome in Somerset. [128942]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Passport remote interview facilities are located in sparsely populated parts of the UK, as defined by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Somerset is not defined as a sparsely populated area in this context.

Prison Service: Vacancies

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison officer vacancies there were in each prison establishment at the end of each quarter since January 2000; what the expected vacancy rate is projected to be at each establishment for each quarter in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [126324]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on past shortfalls of officers for each establishment is contained in the tables. Information on staff shortfalls is not available for the public sector before March 2001. The shortfalls incorporate the contribution of contracted supplementary hours.

Although projections of vacancy levels are not available for public sector establishments, officer staffing levels are monitored regularly to ensure that they are within acceptable operating margins. Four contracted establishments have been able to provide projected vacancy numbers.

Private sector prison service establishments—prison custody officer vacancies

	2000				2001				2002			
PCO vacancies	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Altcourse	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Ashfield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18

Private sector prison service establishments—prison custody officer vacancies

	2000				2001				2002			
PCO vacancies	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Bronzefield	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Doncaster	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dovegate	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Forest Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lowdham	—	—	—	5	9	3	5	2	—	6	10	3
Parc[3]	24	—	—	18	15	11	9	8	19	4	7	1
Peterborough	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Rye Hill	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Wolds	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

	2003				2004				2005			
PCO vacancies	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Altcourse	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Ashfield	—	10	4	1	—	15	25	48	5	11	21	10
Bronzefield	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	—	—	—	—	15	—
Doncaster	7	31	17	9	23	1	13	4	12	7	16	7
Dovegate	9	7	—	10	—	10	22	1	10	9	10	7
Forest Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	7	11	—	11	—	—	3
Lowdham	4	4	13	6	9	—	8	2	3	1	9	6
Parc[3]	8	23	—	13	12	31	—	17	16	2	21	15
Peterborough	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	20	—	—	10
Rye Hill	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Wolds	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

	2006			
PCO vacancies	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Altcourse	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Ashfield	1	9	2	1
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—
Doncaster	9	7	10	6
Dovegate	13	14	2	9
Forest Bank	3	—	3	2
Lowdham	7	10	7	5
Parc[3]	1	9	12	18
Peterborough	—	—	4	11
Rye Hill	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Wolds	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

[1] No information provided by contractor.
[2] Not yet opened.
[3] Information provided by HMP Parc is for the number of prison custody officers (PCOs) staff who joined to fill vacancies.
Notes:
1. Where an establishment has recorded a surplus of staff this has been shown as zero in the table.
2. HMP Bronzefield did not open until 2004
3. HMP Peterborough did not open until 2005.
4. Where information is not available it is due to information not being obtainable because of the variations in computer systems used by contracted companies.

Private sector prison service establishments—projected prison custody officer vacancies

	2007			
Establishment	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Altcourse	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Ashfield	2	5	3	1
Bronzefield	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Doncaster	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dovegate	16	7	7	7
Forest Bank	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lowdham	5	0	5	0
Parc	19	5	1	0

Private sector prison service establishments—projected prison custody officer vacancies

	2007			
Establishment	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Peterborough	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rye Hill	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Wolds	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

[1] No information provided.
Note:
Figures for 2007 are projections of vacancies that may be available and are subject to change.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted prisoners in England and Wales are foreign nationals; and what percentage of the total number of convicted prisoners this represents. [128493]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were 8,328 convicted foreign national prisoners detained in prisons in England and Wales at the end of January 2007. This represents 12 per cent. of the total number of convicted prisoners detained.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisons: Deaths

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged over 65 years died in prison in each of the last three years. [129925]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested in respect to deaths of prisoners above the age of 65 is provided in the following table:

Total number of deaths for prisoners aged over 65 years

	Number
2004	33
2005	25
2006	22

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the *(a)* resources available to prisons to provide drug misuse rehabilitation and *(b)* number of prisoners requiring this treatment. [129932]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows details of funding allocated for the totality of prison drug treatment for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07:

Intervention	*2005-06*	*£ million 2006-07*
Clinical services (maintenance-prescribing, detoxification)	11.3	23.3
CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Through-care service)	26.7	31.7
Drug rehabilitation programmes	19.4	19.4
YPSMS (Young Persons Substance Misuse Service)	2.9	2.9
Total drug treatment	60.3	77.3

Data on the number of prisoners requiring drug treatment are not recorded in the way requested. Instead, prisons rely on epidemiological data which show that, on average, approximately 55 per cent. of prisoners report a serious drug problem prior to prison, with 80 per cent. reporting some prior misuse.

The following table shows the number of prisoners who have benefited from drug treatment over the past two years (for which full-year data are available). Individual prisoners may engage in more than one form of treatment:

Intervention	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Clinical services—entrants to maintenance-prescribing and/or detoxification programmes	53,903	53,323
CARATs—substance misuse triage assessments conducted	59,025	[1]74,588
Drug rehabilitation programmes—		
Entrants	7,621	10,743
Completions	4,902	8,011

[1] Of which 8,709 juvenile/YPSMS element.

Prisons: Mental Health

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of prisoners in need of mental health care who should be treated in secure NHS facilities. [129929]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Responsibility for prison health care services now rests with the Department of Health.

Although large numbers of people in prison have a diagnosed mental disorder(s), most do not meet the criteria for detention set out in the Mental Health Act 1983. Those prisoners who are assessed as being too ill to remain in prison are already being transferred to a hospital setting appropriate to their care and security needs.

In 2006, 31 per cent. more prisoners with mental illness too severe for prison were transferred to hospital than in 2002—up to 941 from 722. There has also been a significant decrease in the number of people waiting over 12 weeks for a transfer. In the quarter ending December 2006, 38 prisoners were waiting, down from 62 in the quarter ending June 2005.

Prisons: Patient Complaints

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether NHS patients' complaints procedures have been available for use by prisoners since the NHS assumed responsibility for prison health. [129930]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In April 2006, the NHS assumed responsibility for the provision of primary healthcare services in all publicly run prison establishments. Under this responsibility, prisoners in England and Wales are able to access the NHS complaints procedure.

Prison Service instruction 14/2005, "Handling Complaints about Prison Health Care" gives further detail about the process and is available on the Prison Service website at:

http://psi.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSI_2005_14_complaints_about_prison_healthcare.doc.

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Romania/Bulgaria

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate the Government have made of the number of people who may come to the UK seeking work from *(a)* Romania and *(b)* Bulgaria in 2007. [112664]

Mr. Byrne: The Government have not made any official estimates of the numbers of migrants from Bulgaria and Romania that might migrate to the UK to seek work.

Secure Accommodation: Young Offenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2329W, on secure accommodation: young offenders, what measures are *(a)* in place and *(b)* under consideration to create contingency places in the Youth Justice secure estate; how many places each measure is expected to create; and if he will make a statement. [129636]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The Youth Justice Board has been developing extra capacity in the secure estate for children and young people in response to recent increased demand and has added 342 additional places since April 2004. On 22 March, 237 available places in the estate were unoccupied.

The Board's Strategy for the Secure Estate for Children and Young People sets out plans for further developing the estate over the longer term.

The following measures are in hand to create extra capacity in the short- to medium-term:

the Board is exploring the possibility of purchasing more places at Feltham YOI - which is in an area of high population demand. If this can be achieved, some places elsewhere in the estate would be made over to the over-18 estate. There would be a net increase of 24 under-18 places;

the Board is increasing capacity at Hindley YOI. It is planned that the programme of work will be completed by July 2007, with a net increase of 48 places.

As a contingency measure, the board is considering spot-purchasing up to 20 additional places in secure children's homes.

In the longer term, the board plans to create several high-dependency units in the Prison Service estate for more vulnerable boys. The first will be at Wetherby YOI and is scheduled to open in summer 2008. The opening of the unit will secure a net increase of 48 places.

Security: Heathrow Airport

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people took part in the miSense scheme at Heathrow Airport Terminal 3. [128021]

Mr. Byrne: 2,159 volunteers were enrolled in the miSense scheme at Heathrow airport terminal 3.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the outcome of the *(a)* miSense scheme, *(b)* miSenseplus scheme and *(c)* miSenseallclear scheme. [128051]

Mr. Byrne: The Simplifying Passenger Travel United Kingdom Regional Group is currently conducting a detailed evaluation of all three miSense schemes. As a key partner the Home Office is fully involved in this process and is keen to identify and build on the lessons learned. A summary of the evaluation is expected to be made available to the public in April and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people enrolled in the miSenseplus scheme at Heathrow Airport Terminal 3. [128053]

Mr. Byrne: 1,007 volunteers enrolled in the miSensePlus trial at Heathrow airport terminal 3.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which UK Government agencies he expects to be involved in the miSenseallclear scheme. [128054]

Mr. Byrne: MiSenseallclear ran for a two-week period during February 2007 and was operated by the Joint Border Operations Centre which is staffed by officers from HMRC, IND, Police and UKVisas.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what central government funding was made available to fund the *(a)* miSense, *(b)* miSenseplus and *(c)* miSenseallclear scheme. [128091]

Mr. Byrne: This trial was a collaborative venture between members of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Simplifying Passenger Travel (SPT) initiative. Led by BAA, the UK Regional Group also comprised Accenture, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, IER, Raytheon, Sagem, SITA and IND along with a number of associate partners. Each partner provided resources at their own cost; in the case of central Government this amounted to staff costs only. The use of collaboration groups enables low cost, low risk trial delivery as costs and risks are distributed to the collaboration partner that is best able to manage the risk.

Wellingborough Prison

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Independent Monitoring Board members are *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* in post at HM Prison Wellingborough; and if he will make a statement. [125307]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Wellingborough as at 6 March 2007 had an official complement of 11 members and at that date 10 members were in post.

Young Offender Institutions: Ethnic Groups

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of prisoners in each young offender institution are from ethnic minorities, broken down by *(a)* race and *(b)* religion. [126885]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* Information on *(a)* numbers and percentages of ethnic minority detainees in all young offender and juvenile institutions in England and Wales as at 31 January 2007 and *(b)* the numbers by religious affiliation can be found in the following tables.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

(a) To show numbers of under 21s and young offenders and their break-down by racial group

	All ethnic minority	Ethnic minorities	Mixed	As percentage of all Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or other
All	2,436	28	5	6	16	1
Ashfield	92	23	4	7	11	0
Aylesbury	217	49	6	8	34	2
Brinsford	108	38	9	9	20	0
Chelmsford	20	33	5	10	18	0
Cookham Wood	1	11	0	0	11	0
Castington	14	9	2	1	6	0
Drake Hall	3	20	7	0	13	0
Deerbolt	53	12	3	5	5	0
East Sutton Park	5	56	0	12	44	0
Eastwood Park	9	13	6	3	4	0
Elmley	3	13	5	0	8	0
Foston Hall	3	34	22	0	11	0
Feltham	235	59	9	6	42	1
Guys Marsh	8	12	4	0	7	0
Glen Parva	106	20	5	5	9	1
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	4	23	11	6	6	0
Huntercombe	172	48	10	7	30	0
Moorland Open	14	31	2	26	2	0
Hindley	61	15	4	3	7	0
Highdown	29	49	9	4	37	0
Holloway	27	28	7	0	18	3
Lancaster Farms	32	8	1	3	3	0
Moorland	92	26	5	7	13	0
New Hall	7	11	5	2	5	0
Northallerton	20	8	2	3	3	0
Norwich	26	22	4	4	13	0
Onley	83	35	4	11	19	1
Portland	228	42	6	5	30	1
Parc	23	11	1	2	8	0
Rochester	172	45	7	7	30	1
Reading	1	10	0	10	0	0
Stoke Heath	119	19	4	6	8	0
Swinfen Hall	201	32	4	10	18	1
Styal	5	12	2	0	7	2
Thorn Cross	38	15	3	7	5	0
Warren Hill	79	35	8	7	17	3
Werrington	48	30	10	5	15	1
Wetherby	78	23	10	4	8	0

(b) To show the proportions of religious groups within the ethnic minority population

	Percentage									
	Anglican	Free Church	Roman Catholic	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Not-recognised and other	No religion
All	7	0	2	1	0	0	10	0	0	6
Ashfield	8	0	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	4
Aylesbury	15	0	4	2	0	1	20	0	0	5
Brinsford	10	0	2	1	0	0	11	1	0	13
Chelmsford	10	0	2	2	0	2	13	0	0	5
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Castington	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
Drake Hall	7	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Deerbolt	3	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	4
East Sutton Park	33	0	11	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	6
Elmley	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5

(b) To show the proportions of religious groups within the ethnic minority population

	Anglican	Free Church	Roman Catholic	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Not-recognised and other	No religion
									Percentage[1]	
Foston Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	22
Feltham	16	2	8	3	0	0	23	0	0	6
Guys Marsh	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
Glen Parva	5	0	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	7
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	6	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	6
Huntercombe	18	1	3	1	0	0	18	0	0	6
Moorland Open	4	0	0	0	0	0	20	4	0	2
Hindley	3	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	6
Highdown	16	0	5	0	0	0	26	0	0	2
Holloway	7	0	4	3	1	0	4	0	0	7
Lancaster Farms	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Moorland	5	0	2	0	1	0	8	1	0	8
New Hall	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	8
Northallerton	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Norwich	4	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	7
Onley	8	0	3	3	0	0	15	1	0	6
Portland	9	1	4	4	0	0	19	0	0	5
Parc	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	4
Rochester	15	0	3	3	0	1	17	1	0	6
Reading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Stoke Heath	3	0	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
Swinfen Hall	8	0	2	2	0	0	12	1	0	7
Styal	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Thorn Cross	2	0	3	0	0	0	7	0	0	4
Warren Hill	10	0	1	1	0	0	11	0	1	10
Werrington	4	0	5	1	1	0	8	1	1	10
Wetherby	4	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	11

[1] In each case the figure is the percentage the religious group is of the total establishment population.

Young Offenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young offenders in custody committed *(a)* acts of self-harm and *(b)* suicide in each year since 2001. [126090]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The exact information requested is not available. The table provides estimates in respect of those aged 18 to 20 inclusive derived from a national recording system of each incident of self-harm, the majority of which are minor. The improved system was only introduced in 2003 and figures before this time should not be compared directly with those since that date.

The Home Office definition of prisoner self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. Annual figures may change slightly as inquest verdicts and other information becomes available, although the figures presented here are a fair reflection of the number of self-inflicted deaths among young offenders.

	Number of offenders aged 18 to 20 who self-harmed	Number self-inflicted deaths of offenders aged 18 to 20
2001[1]	707	10
2002[1]	694	12
2003	950	11
2004	906	6
2005	1,079	10
2006	1,138	2

[1] Not comparable to later years due to change in reporting system.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many supervision orders with conditions were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by young offenders aged 18 years and under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [126104]

(2) how many curfew orders were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by young offenders aged 18 years and under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [126103]

(3) how many community punishment and rehabilitation orders were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by young offenders aged 18 years and under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [126106]

(4) how many community punishment orders were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by young offenders aged 18 years and under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [126107]

(5) how many detention and training orders were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by offenders aged 18 years and under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [126110]

(6) how many *(a)* reparation orders, *(b)* action plan orders and *(c)* attendance centre orders were (i) issued to and (ii) breached by young offenders aged 18 years or under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [126112]

(7) how many supervision orders without conditions were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by young offenders aged 18 or under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [126139]

(8) how many drug treatment and testing orders were *(a)* issued to and *(b)* breached by offenders aged 18 years and under in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [126103]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For sentencing purposes, juveniles are defined as being aged 17 and under; 18-year-olds are treated as adults. This response therefore is confined to young offenders aged 10 to 17 in the interest of clarity.

Statistics on sentencing of young offenders (persons aged 10 to 17) are published in "Sentencing Statistics 2005" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin No. 03/07), a copy of which is in the Library.

Table 2.8 on page 42 includes numbers of detention and training orders made and Table 3.7 on page 70 includes number of drug treatment and testing orders, supervision orders, curfew orders, community punishment and rehabilitation orders, community punishment orders, reparation orders, action plan orders and attendance centre orders made.

Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile the figures in this publication, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Consequently, although figures are shown to the last digit in order to provide a comprehensive record of the information collected, they are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown.

The bulletin referred to is also available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0307.pdf

Supervision orders with and without conditions are not published separately due to data quality problems, and in relation to statistics on breaches of all these orders, quality checks have shown that breach data are unsuitable for publication. Statistics on breaches can therefore only be published when significant improvements have been made to the submissions of these data to the Home Office.

Young Offenders: Foreigners

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of prisoners in young offender institutions are foreign nationals, broken down by nationality. [126081]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* At the end of January 2007 8 per cent. of all prisoners held in young offender and juvenile institutions were foreign nationals. Information on their nationalities can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Foreign national prisoners held within young offender and juvenile institutions as at 31 January 2007

	Number
All[1]	690
Total other	1
Afghanistan	4
Albania	12
Algeria	5
Angola	5
Australia	1
Bangladesh	16
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2
Botswana	1
Bulgaria	1
Burundi	2
Cameroon, United Republic	2
Canada	1
Central African Republic	1
Chile	1
China	7
Columbia	4
Congo	10
Congo, Democratic Republic	9
Czech Republic	3
Dominican Republic	1
Ecuador	1
Estonia	4
Ethiopia	10
France	9
French Guyana	1
Gambia	3
Georgia	1
Germany	3
Ghana	3
Grenada	1
Guatemala	2
Guinea	2
Guyana	2
Hong Kong	1
India	6
Iran	14
Iraq	19
Irish Republic	39
Italy	2
Ivory Coast	6
Jamaica	85
Jordan	1
Kazakhstan	1
Kenya	4
Kuwait	1
Latvia	3
Lebanon	1
Liberia	2
Libya	1
Lithuania	6
Macedonia	2
Moldova	9
Montserrat	3
Morocco	1
Netherlands	11

Foreign national prisoners held within young offender and juvenile institutions as at 31 January 2007

	Number
Netherlands Antilles	2
New Zealand	1
Niger	1
Nigeria	33
Pakistan	24
Philippines	1
Poland	16
Portugal	16
Qatar	1
Romania	15
Russia	5
Rwanda	5
Saudi Arabia	6
Serbia and Montenegro	13
Sierra Leone	12
Somalia	78
South Africa	14
Spain	1
Sri Lanka	3
St. Lucia	2
Sudan	4
Sweden	2
Syrian Arab Republic	2
Tanzania	2
Thailand	1
Togo	1
Trinidad and Tobago	5
Turkey	10
Uganda	14
United Arab Emirates	1
United States of America	6
Venezuela	1
Vietnam	17
Zambia	1
Zimbabwe	19

[1] Where figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest whole number, the rounded components do not always add up to the totals which are calculated and rounded independently.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Biofuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he made of the impact on the wood panel industry of increasing the level of subsidy for co-firing using a wood-based raw material. [129531]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government support co-firing through the renewables obligation (RO). Currently, all technologies under the RO receive the same level of support. The Energy Review Report proposed banding the RO so that it provides different levels of support to different technologies. As co-firing is one of the most economic technologies, we have consulted on proposals to decrease the level of support it receives. These proposals would require amendments to the Electricity Act 1989 and will be the subject of an announcement later this year. At present, the level through which suppliers can meet their obligation through co-firing is capped at 10 per cent. having fallen from 25 per cent. in 2006. This cap not only protects the RO certificate market but also restricts the volumes of biomass, including wood, that can be used.

The Government also commissioned an independent report to look at the current and future impact of co-firing on the wood panel industry (ILEX, September 2005). The report concluded that allowing more waste wood (which is not suitable for use by the wood panel industry) to qualify for support through the RO would ease competition for the industry's preferred feedstock. We accepted these recommendations and have implemented them through changes to the biomass definition in the Renewables Obligation Order 2006 and will make further changes through the Renewables Obligation Order 2006 Amendment Order 2007 from 1 April 2007.

Business: Competition

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with Ofcom on its plans for fostering competition in the market for business and small and medium-sized enterprises communications services as part of its policy objectives for 2007 and 2008. [123431]

Margaret Hodge: I meet regularly with representatives of the independent regulator Ofcom (the Office of Communications) to discuss a wide range of issues. SMEs use a number of communication services including voice lines, calls, internet access/broadband and leased lines. In each of these Ofcom is taking various steps to increase the level of competition and choice for businesses including:

Supporting development of local loop unbundling (LLU) by allowing BT's competitors to install equipment in BT exchanges. Where this occurs, for the first time, consumers have a choice of companies from which to rent telephone lines, as well as a wider choice than before of telecommunications packages.

Improving wholesale line rental (WLR) product and moving to "equivalence". This means that BT Retail has to purchase WLR from BT Wholesale in exactly the same manner as its competitors, and ensures a more level playing field, particularly in areas where no competitors of BT have decided to install equipment in the BT exchange.

Reviewing the leased line market (typically used by businesses needing a network to connect offices around the country) to ensure that remedies introduced in 2004 to improve retail competition remain appropriate.

In addition, I have had several discussions with Ofcom about their ongoing approach to spectrum management, so as to provide a competitive environment for SMEs and others conducive to innovation.

European Union Research and Development Framework Programme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many British companies have *(a)* applied to and *(b)* received the European Union Research and Development Framework programme in each of the last three years. [130060]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission is responsible for providing member states with data on the implementation of the Framework programme.

The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) covered the years 2003 to 2007. The data provided by the European Commission on total applications for funding are by member state total and not broken down by organisation type.

The data provided by the European Commission show that, in 2004, there were 9,105 UK applicants; 2,341 applicants received funding in this year, of which 429 were classified as industry participants.

In 2005 11,711 UK participants applied for funding from FP6; 2,328 applicants received funding in this year, of which 432 were classified as industry participants.

The European Commission data for 2006 cover the entire year for total applicants, but only cover projects signed up to July 2006 for specific organisation type. 4,036 UK participants applied for funding; with 2,049 applicants receiving funding; 70 of these were classified as industry participants.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment was made by his Department of the future commercial viability of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority prior to his agreement to provide further public money to support its continuing operation; [124777]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the commercial revenues generated by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority will be sufficient to fulfil the Authority's needs. [124789]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are committed to funding the costs of the decommissioning and clean-up of the historic civil public nuclear liabilities arising at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) sites. The Consolidated Fund is the mechanism for funding this, with a mixture of grant in aid and commercial income. Over time the contribution from income will fall off, as productive units are progressively taken out of service. The NDA's commercial income is taken fully into account in setting its budget. We have agreed a budget for 2007-08 that will ensure that the NDA delivers a small increase in programme funding and which will ensure the NDA can meet its core objectives and maintain safety. We are now discussing longer term funding for the NDA in the context of the Spending Round.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost to date has been of the creation and operation of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [124788]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department was advised by consultants, by means of a contract for services, on matters relating to arrangements for setting up the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Services under the contract included providing strategic management and direct technical and commercial functions to both the Department and the 'shadow' NDA. The contract was signed on 12 August 2002 and was novated to the NDA on 25 May 2005. The final cost was £23.16 million. The NDA's operational costs as given in their management accounts are as follows:

	Audited actual 2004-05	*Audited actual 2005-06*	*Period 10 forecast 2006-07 (unaudited)*
NDA Total Spend	9	2,420	2,683
NDA HQ Spend	9	36	50
Efficiency savings	0	124	140

Notes:
1. Expenditure in 2004-05 represents the 'shadow' NDA. Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 show the NDA established with its full staff complement.
2. Expenditure is stated on a near-cash basis and includes capital expenditure but excludes non-cash items such as depreciation and movement in provisions.

Post Offices

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when his Department expects to report on the findings of the Post Office Network consultation. [129128]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are currently reviewing the responses and hope to be able to announce our conclusions and final decisions in May.

Public Bodies

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much funding his Department gave to the *(a)* UK Atomic Energy Authority, *(b)* Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and *(c)* Civil Nuclear Police Authority in each of the last five years; and how much has been provided to each body in 2006-07. [106948]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 4 December 2006]:* The DTI's departmental report shows payments to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) for the funding of decommissioning, as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	277.411
2003-04	260.505
2004-05	288.500

In addition the DTI's departmental report shows other grant in aid payments to UKAEA, as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	0
2003-04	17.5
2004-05	28.6

The Energy Act 2004 produced a reorganisation of the Government's nuclear decommissioning. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA) were established with effect from 1 April 2005. The NDA acquired the responsibility for the nuclear liabilities which were previously the responsibility of UKAEA and the CNPA took over the responsibility for nuclear policing. These changes were reflected in a change to the funding arrangements provided by the DTI in 2005-06. The NDA received the major part of the

decommissioning funding and the CNPA received minor sums. The funding to UKAEA was reduced accordingly.

The DTI's 2007 departmental report will disclose the following funding for 2005-06 and budgeted funding for 2006-07.

	2005-06	£ million 2006-07[1]
NDA (less NDA income)	1,051	1,508
UKAEA	9.7	12.6
CNPA	6	3

[1] Spring Supplementary Estimate.

Renewable Obligations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of householders who have received renewable obligations certificates (ROCs) in the last year; and what the average value was of the ROCs received. [129851]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem administer the issuing of ROCs to renewable generators. They do not keep data on the number of generators who are households; however 57 of the 975 accredited generators were small generators below 50KW, and accredited to individuals rather than businesses. These 57 small generators claimed 952 ROCs in the 2005-06 period.

We do not keep data on average ROC prices for generators; however the nominal value of a ROC to suppliers for 2005-06 was £42.54.

Changes we have introduced in the Renewables Obligation Order 2006 (Amendment) Order 2007—currently before Parliament—will remove the requirement for sale and buyback agreements and allow agents to act for small generators, including householders. It is expected these changes will make it easier for householders to claim ROCs. Ofgem are expecting a consequent rise in the number of applications from small generators.

Research: Capital Investment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the net balance of research and development investment is in *(a)* each UK region, *(b)* the United Kingdom and *(c)* the European Union. [129548]

Malcolm Wicks: Information on the net balance of research and development investments is not available.

The OECD has for many years provided the most reliable and consistent international analyses of R&D expenditures, under the guidance of the Frascati Manual which sets out how to describe and measure R&D activities. In line with the Frascati Manual, the UK national statistics on R&D are at gross level.

The following table shows the latest available R&D statistics at regional level. Private non-for-profit expenditure on R&D (PNPERD) is not available at regional level. In 2004, PNPERD accounted for 3 per cent. of the UK gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD).

Estimated regional breakdown of expenditure on intramural R&D in the business, government and higher education sectors, 2005

£ million

	R&D performed within business (BERD)	R&D performed within government establishments (GOVERD)[1]	R&D performed within higher education institutions (HERD)
UK	12,677	2,031	4,454
North East	152	2	138
North West	1,545	54	363
Yorkshire	345	135	347
East Midlands	868	23	223
West Midlands	809	38	228
Eastern England	2,936	339	411
London	709	281	1,069
South East	3,252	590	613
South West	1,229	234	192
England	11,845	1,696	3,604
Wales	207	44	175
Scotland	508	274	575
Northern Ireland	116	17	100

[1] Figures include estimates for those areas of central Government not available from the Government survey and local authorities.

Note:

1. Information on GERD at the UK level for 2005 was released by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) on 23 March. GERD amounted to £21,764 million in 2005.
2. For international comparisons, because of movements in exchange rates, it is more meaningful to express R&D as a percentage of GDP. The latest figures for 2005 were 1.8 per cent. both for the EU25 (OECD data) and 1.8 per cent. for the UK (ONS).

Source:

ONS.

Royal Mail

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether any proposals are under consideration for further consolidation in the Royal Mail sorting office sector. [129808]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to my hon. Friend.

HEALTH

Cancer: Irish Community

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to reduce the *(a)* incidence of and *(b)* mortality from cancers in the Irish community in England. [128205]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not have any programmes to reduce cancer incidence or mortality specifically targeted at the Irish community in England.

However, as a result of the White Paper "Your health, your care, your say", there are a number of

programmes and initiatives underway to encourage people to improve their health and to improve their health knowledge. These programs and initiatives should help reduce incidence, by helping people to lead healthier lives and make healthier life choices.

An important part of reducing mortality from cancer is early detection and we are working with the healthy communities collaborative, part of the improvement foundation, to test locally developed approaches to raising awareness of cancer symptoms in local communities, including black and minority ethnic communities. We would hope that if a person developed symptoms that may be cancer, that they would recognise the symptoms as abnormal and seek medical advice.

The NHS Cancer Plan sets out our strategy for improving cancer services for all patients and we have seen significant improvements in the management and provision of cancer services for all cancer patients, regardless of their ethnicity. The plan noted the need to provide patients with culturally sensitive information.

As announced in November 2006, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, the Cancer Reform Strategy will build on the success of the NHS Cancer Plan and will look at ways that we can improve awareness of cancer, the early detection of cancer and patient experience.

Developing policy which benefits all sectors of the community is central to the role of the Department, and we have a strong commitment to promoting race equality.

Community Hospitals: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has made to Cumbria Primary Care Trust prior to its announcement that no community hospitals within Cumbria will close. [124109]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been no such representations.

Dental Health: Children

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by her Department in the last five years on providing information to parents on preventing tooth decay in children. [128380]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Oral health promotion can take the form of educational and awareness campaigns aimed at population groups, or personal information and advice given by dentists, hygienists or other members of primary and community dental teams in the course of examining or treating individual patients.

Information on local national health service oral health promotion campaigns is not collected centrally although over the period 2003 to 2006 the Department contributed £1.1 million to pilot the Brushing for Life scheme intended to get families with young children into the habit of brushing their teeth regularly with fluoride toothpaste.

It is also not possible to quantify what proportion of the activity supported by the £2.2 billion gross budget in 2005-06 for NHS primary dental care services contributed to raising awareness of oral hygiene and the prevention of dental disease. One of the Government's objectives in introducing from April 2006 local commissioning arrangements for primary dental care services and changing the basis of remuneration for dental practices away from item of service fees was to give dentists more scope to focus on preventative care. Primary care trusts are also now required to provide oral health promotion programmes to the extent that they consider it necessary to meet all reasonable requirements within their areas. To assist them, we published an oral health plan for England "Choosing Better Oral Health" in November 2005.

Dental Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made on the level of access to NHS dentistry in *(a)* Portsmouth, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England; and if she will make a statement. [126260]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Information Centre for health and social care publishes quarterly data on the number of patients receiving care or treatment from national health service dental services in the previous 24 months.

Information is held at primary care trust (PCT), strategic health authority (SHA) and England level. The data for the 24-month periods ending March, June and September 2006 for England and the then existing PCTs within the geographical areas of Portsmouth and Hampshire are provided in the following table. Information could be provided in the exact form requested for Portsmouth and Hampshire only at disproportionate cost.

Number of patients seen in the two years ending 31 March, 30 June and 30 September 2006 (including orthodontic patients) in England and the specified PCTs

	31 March 2006		*30 June 2006*		*30 September 2006*	
	Number	*Per 1,000 population*	*Number*	*Per 1,000 population*	*Number*	*Per 1,000 population*
England	28,144,599	558	28,068,025	557	28,083,591	557
of which:						
Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT	93,228	531	95,301	543	96,562	550
East Hampshire PCT	50,622	297	51,564	303	52,645	309
Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT	85,706	530	83,871	519	81,626	505
Fareham and Gosport PCT	71,671	386	72,766	392	73,181	394
North Hampshire PCT	99,513	471	98,654	467	97,810	463

Number of patients seen in the two years ending 31 March, 30 June and 30 September 2006 (including orthodontic patients) in England and the specified PCTs

	31 March 2006		30 June 2006		30 September 2006	
	Number	Per 1,000 population	Number	Per 1,000 population	Number	Per 1,000 population
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	114,710	609	111,086	589	106,777	566

Notes:
1. PCT boundaries are as at 30 September 2006. The Information Centre will publish information on patients seen in the 24 month periods ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 by the new PCT boundaries (PCT boundaries as at 1 October 2006) on 23 March 2007.
2. Portsmouth City Teaching PCT remains a PCT after 1 October 2006. The other PCTs listed are those that now form Hampshire PCT as a result of the 1 October 2006 PCT boundary changes.
3. Patients have been identified by using surname, first initial, gender and date of birth. Each unique patient ID is normally assigned to the dental contract (and therefore PCT) against which the most recent claim for routine treatment was recorded in the 24 month period.
4. The information shows number of patients seen by dentists and the location in which these patients were seen. It does not show the patients home address. Most patients live within the PCT area in which they receive primary care dental services but some will attend a dentist further afield (near work for example).
5. The count of patient IDs is a robust statistical indicator of the overall level of patient involvement with NHS primary dental care. As with the previous registration system there will be some duplications and omissions. Patients will be omitted if two or more share the same surname, initial, sex and date of birth. Patients may be counted twice if they have two or more episodes of care and their name is misspelled or changed (for example on marriage) between those episodes of care. The risk of duplication increases if the episodes of care are at different practices.
6. None of the above factors is likely to affect the overall count by more than one or two percent. but at a PCT level there may be local demographic factors which make the local total more susceptible, e.g. a high proportion of women changing names after marriage, a local concentration of surnames prone to be misspelled, and or a transient patient base.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care
NHS Business Services Authority (BSA)

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to review dental manpower in England; and what mechanisms she plans to put in place to satisfy dental manpower needs over the next five years. [128378]

Ms Rosie Winterton: "The Report of the Primary Care Dental Workforce Review" published in 2004 identified a shortage of dentists to which the Department responded with two major initiatives. Through the Project 1000 campaign, the Department supported the national health service in recruiting the equivalent of 1,453 additional whole time dentists including some 500 overseas dentists. For the longer term, the Department increased the number of undergraduate training places in English dental schools by 170, a 25 per cent. increase in capacity. The first cohort of students to take these additional places will graduate in 2009 by when there will have been three years experience of the devolution of the commissioning of primary care dentistry to primary care trusts (PCTs). As part of these new arrangements, PCTs are responsible for assessing local needs and commissioning services to reflect these needs. The Department will work with the NHS to allow local need assessments and commissioning plans to feed into long term work force planning at national level.

Dentistry

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what forecasts were made for revenue from patient charges for NHS dental treatment in 2006-07; and what her most recent forecast is. [129894]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A table listing the primary dental service resource allocations for 2006-07 for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England as at 31 July 2006 is available in the Library. This set out the net allocations awarded to PCTs and the assumed gross budgets based on illustrative assumptions about levels of patient charge income for each PCT. Strategic health authorities agreed with their PCTs locally how these allocations would be redistributed within the new PCT areas that took effect from 1 October 2006.

It is for PCTs to monitor and manage patient charge revenue locally in the context of managing their overall net financial commitments. The Department is not in a position to make a reliable estimate of patient charge revenue at national level ahead of receiving final outturn data for the full financial year. The Information Centre for health and social care will be publishing information on income from dental patient charges in due course.

Dentistry: Training

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental schools provide training for dentists in England; and how many places were offered by each dental school in each year since 1990. [128379]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of home and European Union students admitted to dental schools in England is available from 1993 onwards and is set out in the following tables.

Home/EU domicile, year 1

	Students admitted						
Dental school	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
University of Birmingham	69	73	74	69	68	71	70

Home/EU domicile, year 1

Dental school	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*
							Students admitted
University of Bristol	63	64	44	57	55	50	52
King's College London	157	156	154	149	167	142	130
University of Leeds	52	54	52	53	52	51	55
University of Liverpool	50	54	48	55	51	49	49
Queen Mary and Westfield College	57	59	53	53	52	54	57
University of Manchester	59	74	65	114	55	60	71
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	70	70	83	81	79	78	63
University of Sheffield	51	60	54	54	52	48	53
Total England	630	664	627	685	631	603	600

Dental school	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
						Students admitted
University of Birmingham	69	72	75	75	81	90
University of Bristol	50	51	55	54	53	84
King's College London	144	140	162	138	142	168
University of Leeds	50	54	61	55	52	85
University of Liverpool	45	49	52	63	60	90
Queen Mary and Westfield College	63	61	55	73	58	90
University of Manchester	74	73	71	77	79	59
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	72	68	70	69	80	98
University of Sheffield	56	58	64	68	69	84
Total England	623	626	665	672	674	848

Diabetes: Screening

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions there are upon the *(a)* availability, *(b)* type and *(c)* numbers of home blood testing strips for people diagnosed with diabetes. [129398]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Testing strips for blood glucose monitoring available on national health service prescription are restricted to those listed at Part IXR of the Drug Tariff. However, as with any medicine or appliance, which type is best for the patient and how many are prescribed are matters for discussion between the patient and their healthcare professional.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Cranmby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to discuss with manufacturers of confectionery and fizzy drinks the potential for warnings on packaging informing the consumer of the risks of tooth decay. [128377]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have no specific plans for the labelling of these foods, but improving diet and reducing sugar intake is one of the main themes of our oral health promotion programme. "Choosing Better Oral Health", the oral health plan for England, which we issued in November 2005, included advice to reduce both the frequency and the amount of added sugars consumed in line with the Department's target of reducing average intake of added sugar to 11 per cent. of food energy.

Health Services: Neurology

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of access to *(a)* physiotherapy, *(b)* respiratory support, *(c)* orthotics and *(d)* other NHS services for people with neuromuscular conditions; what recent changes there have been to those services; and if she will make a statement. [128923]

Andy Burnham: We have no made no recent assessment of NHS services for people with neuromuscular conditions.

The recently published "National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions" and the "Musculoskeletal Framework" have been designed to transform the provision of health and social services for those living with long-term neurological and musculoskeletal conditions.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Westminster Primary Care Trust waited for *(a)* 18 months and over, *(b)* 12 months and over and *(c)* six months and over for in-patient admission in each of the last four years. [126619]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows in-patient admissions for the last four-year period in the Westminster primary care trust (PCT) area.

Time Waited	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
More than 6 months to 12 months	948	1,089	967	901

Time Waited	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
More than 12 months to 18 months	216	127	87	76
More than 18 months	16	22	18	26
Number of elective waiting list and booked admissions where it is not possible to calculate accurate waiting times	1,875	1,683	1,926	2,594

Notes:
1. Finished in-year admissions: A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider, excluding admissions before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
3. Time waited (days): Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the publicised waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between admission and the decision to admit dates. Where there is no recorded entry for decision to admit, or when decision to admit and admission date are the same this creates an invalid waiting time. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-referrals or periods of medical/social suspension. The time bands "more than 6 months to 12 months" includes those who waited 183 to 364 days, the "more than 12 months to 18 months" includes those who waited 365 to 547 days, the "more than 18 months" includes those who waited 548 and more days.
4. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Influenza

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of which antivirals have been contributed by the UK to the WHO stockpile maintained in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak. [129905]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The United Kingdom has not contributed antivirals to the World Health Organisation (WHO) stockpile, but has donated £500,000 to the WHO to assist its rapid response activities and to improve epidemiological surveillance in south-east Asia for pandemic influenza. This corrects the information given in the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones), regarding the WHO's stockpile, on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1552W.

Mental Health Services

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding the Department of Health provided to *(a)* the mental health charity Combat Stress and *(b)* Hollybush House in each year between 2001 and 2006; [120447]

(2) what funding her Department plans to allocate to the mental health charity Combat Stress in each of the next five years. [120459]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department in England has not provided funding to Combat Stress or any of its treatment centres in the last five years and currently has no plans to do so.

The Ministry of Defence meets individual costs relating to war pensioners who undergo remedial treatment at one of the two Combat Stress homes in England for conditions related to their individual war pensioned disablement. For details of Ministry of Defence expenditure since 2001 in respect of individual remedial treatment of qualifying war pensioners at Combat Stress Homes in England, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Halton (Derek Twigg), on 12 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 933W. The Ministry of Defence also made a grant of £100,000 towards the costs of modernising accommodation at Hollybush House. Separate funding is provided from the Scottish Health Board for treatment of war pensioners at Hollybush House and towards its modernisation.

Mental Health Services: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long *(a)* children and *(b)* looked-after children waited to gain access to mental health services on average in each of the last five years. [127033]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected in the format requested. The most recent information available is from the 2005 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) mapping exercise. In November 2005, there were 26,207 children and young people waiting to be seen by specialist CAMHS in England, a reduction of 2,674 from the previous year.

In November 2005 52 per cent. of new cases were seen by specialist CAMHS within four weeks, an additional 33 per cent. within 13 weeks, and a further 10 per cent. within 26 weeks. 5 per cent. of children and young people waited over 26 weeks to be seen by specialist CAMHS. In 2002 only 24 per cent. of new cases were seen within four weeks and just over 50 per cent. were seen with 13 weeks.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many procedures have been performed by each independent sector treatment centre since October 2003. [127825]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the table.

Wave 1 independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) schemes

Facilities	Procedures at end of January 2007
Ophthalmic chain, mobile units	24,932
Bodmin national health service treatment centre	2,775
Boston NHS treatment centre	1,899
Gainsborough NHS treatment centre	1,554

Wave 1 independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) schemes

Facilities	*Procedures at end of January 2007*
Clifton Park NHS treatment centre	1,817
Capio New Hall NHS treatment centre	2,556
Cobalt NHS treatment centre	3,222
Blakelands NHS treatment centre[1]	2,829
Horton NHS treatment centre[1]	253
Capio Reading NHS treatment centre[1]	262
Kidderminster NHS treatment centre	3,076
Cheshire and Merseyside NHS treatment centre	1,810
Mid Kent NHS treatment centre	1,300
North East London NHS treatment centre	79
Sussex Orthopaedics NHS treatment centre	1,478
Will Adams NHS treatment centre	1,977
St. Mary's NHS treatment centre	3,106
Eccleshill NHS treatment centre	8,448
Midlands NHS treatment centre	2,579
Barlborough NHS treatment centre	6,875
Birkdale clinic	5,157
Shepton Mallet NHS treatment centre	14,012
Greater Manchester surgical centre	10,642
Peninsula NHS treatment centre	5,320

[1] Figures are subject to final reconciliation with the provider.

Note:
Figures are for operational wave 1 ISTCs and exclude centrally procured contracts such as Gsupp, MRI, CWiCs etc. and any diagnostic services delivered.

NHS: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of payment by results on the financial position of hospital trusts *(a)* in England and *(b)* in North Yorkshire; and if she will make a statement. [128313]

Andy Burnham: The financial position of national health service trusts is subject to continual monitoring. The impact of the implementation of payment by results is the focus of an independent evaluation project being undertaken by the University of Aberdeen, supported by the University of Dundee and the Office of Health Economics in London.

NHS: India

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to outsource a proportion of the NHS's accounting and finance jobs to India; and if she will make a statement. [126215]

Andy Burnham: There are no plans to outsource a set proportion of the national health service's accounting and finance jobs to India. NHS shared Business Services Ltd. (SBS) is a 50:50 joint venture with Xansa, a listed plc, which offers a range of finance and accounting services to the NHS on a commercial basis.

It is for each trust to decide if it wants to contract for these services, a decision which will be based on price, quality and service. Given that the United Kingdom business is based in Wakefield, a decision to contract with NHS SBS results in staff being displaced locally. NHS SBS, on receiving the contracted work, without the staff necessary to undertake the work, must make decisions as to whether to allocate that work to UK based staff or sub-contract it to India.

North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget was of North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust in each of the last five years. [130158]

Andy Burnham: The allocations made to the North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust are shown in the following table:

	£ million	*Increase in real terms (Percentage)*	*Increase in cash terms (Percentage)*
2003-04	135.1	6.0	8.4
2004-05	147.5	6.5	9.1
2005-06	160.5	6.2	8.9
2006-07	190.4	6.3	9.1
2007-08	209.0	6.8	9.7

Nurses: Cumbria

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies for nurses there are in the NHS in Cumbria. [128731]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest data collected were for March 2006 through the national health service vacancy survey. This collects vacancies that the trusts have actively been trying to fill for the last three months.

For Carlisle and District primary care trust (PCT), Eden Valley PCT and West Cumbria PCT there were no vacancies for nurses recorded in the March 2006 vacancy survey.

Palliative Care

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by her Department on palliative care services in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by health authority. [129519]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Primary care trusts are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including palliative care.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number was of people on waiting lists for *(a)* radiotherapy, *(b)* chemotherapy and *(c)* other treatments for prostate cancer in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average waiting time was in the same period. [128520]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Statistics on average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for

different types of cancer treatment are not collected centrally. Cancer waiting times' standards of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment, and a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment were introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. In the last quarter (October to December 2006) performance against these standards was 99.6 per cent. and 96.3 per cent. respectively.

Prostate Cancer: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that men with prostate cancer receive equal treatment regardless of ethnic background. [129263]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Developing policy which benefits all sectors of the community is absolutely central to the role of the Department, and we have a strong commitment to promoting race equality. The Department welcomed the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action's report, "Tackling Prostate Cancer in Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups", published in September 2006. We know that men of African origin are more at risk of developing prostate cancer, and the Department funded two of the key studies featured in the report, the successful African Caribbean Awareness Project and the Prostate Cancer in Ethnic Subgroups research study.

Good progress has been made in considering the recommendations of the report. The recommendations were included for consideration in the cancer equality action plan, which fed into the Department action plan to support the publication of the single equality scheme on 4 December 2006.

With specific reference to treatment, the cancer action team (CAT) have appointed to the post of Associate Director: Patient Experience. This post is being funded by the National Audit Office, and the postholder begins work on 1 April 2007. Responsibilities will cover equality issues for cancer, including prostate cancer, as follows:

"provide leadership on BME issues within the CAT;

promote the establishment of a forum of the key stakeholders working with BME communities and work with them to facilitate the sharing of good practice; and

work with key stakeholders and specialist cancer networks to develop best practice guidance for cancer networks (including needs of local population, awareness raising, information and support for patients, end of life care and promoting the implementation of guidance)."

Thyroid Gland: Fluoride

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between fluoridisation and thyroid disorders. [129284]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has commissioned and funded two research studies on fluoridation and health. "A Systematic Review of Public Water Fluoridation" published by the University of York in 2000 identified two studies, which found no significant association between thyroid disorders and water fluoridation, and one study with a positive association. However, the positive study looked at combined fluoride/iodine intakes and has not been published in a peer review journal.

"Water Fluoridation and Health" published by the Medical Research Council (MRC) in 2002 endorsed York's recommendation on the need for further research into fluoridation, but accorded low priority to further research on thyroid disorders. This was because the MRC judged the scientific plausibility of an association between water fluoridation and thyroid disease to be low.

We are committed to a continuing programme of research on the effects of fluoridation on health.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust: Ophthalmology

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* occupied consultant posts and *(b)* locums there are in the opthalmology units of the (i) Alexandra and Princess of Wales, (ii) Worcester Royal and (iii) Kidderminster hospitals; and what population is served by each. [128839]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The Department collects data on the number of consultants and locums working in the ophthalmology speciality, but these are at national health service trust level rather than by individual hospital. Data on the number of consultants and locums working in ophthalmology in Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the Alexandra, Worcester Royal and Kidderminster hospitals as at 30 September 2005, are shown in the table. The same data source show that Worcester primary care trust (PCT), which runs the Princess of Wales community hospital, did not have any ophthalmology staff working for them in the same time period.

	Number
All staff	18
Of which consultants	7
Of which locums	0

Note:
Locum data are not collected to the same level of detail and validation as the main workforce census. Locum figures are therefore rounded to the nearest 10 due to data quality. Locum data exclude staff who already hold a substansive contract.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census.

The Department holds data on population numbers, but this is at PCT-level rather than by individual hospital. The general practitioner (GP) population data collected in April 2005 for GP relevant populations as at April 2004, showed Worcester PCT as serving a population of 542,261. Please note that these data have been constrained to the Office for National Statistics 2004 mid-year population estimates, based on the 2001 Census, but do not include armed forces and some prisoners.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Absent Voting

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what representations the Electoral Commission has received from Equifax on the reliability of signature scans to verify postal votes. [129145]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has received no such representations.

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will place in the Library copies of the correspondence between the Electoral Commission and the Department of Constitutional Affairs on remote electronic voting pilots in the 2007 local elections. [129148]

Peter Viggers: This is a matter for the parties concerned. However, I am informed by the Electoral Commission that copies have been placed in the Library, along with a note setting out the context of the correspondence. The Electoral Commission's letter of 1 December 2006 to the Department for Constitutional Affairs commenting on the pilot scheme applications for the May 2007 elections is also available on its website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/elections/pilotsmay2007.cfm.

Elections: Administration

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1015W, on elections, if he will place in the Library a copy of the new guidance manual and polling station handbook. [129262]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that copies of these documents have been placed in the Library.

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the timetable is for the Electoral Commission to complete its analysis of the Crown Prosecution Service records of cases of alleged offences under electoral legislation; and whether its analysis is planned to be placed in the public domain. [129149]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it will be publishing on its website later this week an initial analysis of the relevant Crown Prosecution Service files. It will also place a copy in the Library. The Commission intends to continue this work, and will report further in due course.

Electoral Commission: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic of each was. [129147]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it spent £4,800 in 2005-06 on funding advertorials in eight regional newspapers in Northern Ireland to provide registration and voter information prior to the 2005 general election. It also spent £1,736 on sponsoring a student magazine in Northern Ireland, with the specific aim of conveying the same information to young people, an under-registered section of society.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Absent Voting

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps local authorities have taken to protect the personal identifiers collected from postal voters from being *(a)* sold to third party companies and *(b)* used by (i) credit reference agencies and (ii) other non-governmental bodies. [129421]

Bridget Prentice: Personal identifiers for postal voters are personal data held by an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) not a local authority. Under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, they may only be disclosed to: other EROs to help them carry out their duties; returning officers at an election; persons involved in the preparation or conduct of legal proceedings under the Representation of the People Act 1983, such as the police or an election petition court.

Also, at the checking of postal votes at an election, candidates and their agents may see the personal identifiers relating to any postal votes that the returning officer is minded to reject, and they may also be disclosed to election observers, but only to the extent required to permit them to observe the proceedings.

There is no provision in legislation for personal identifiers collected from postal voters to be sold to third party companies or to be used by other non-governmental bodies such as credit reference agencies.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department takes to prevent coercion and intimidation being used in postal voting. [129456]

Bridget Prentice: We have inserted new secrecy warnings on postal voting papers to deter any unlawful attempts to influence another person's vote.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 strengthens the existing offence of undue influence to cover both successful and unsuccessful attempts at exerting undue influence on another voter. This should make it easier to secure conviction where there is evidence of intimidation.

More generally, the Government have fully supported the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Electoral Commission in the development of guidance for police officers to raise awareness of electoral fraud issues. ACPO and the Electoral Commission have issued jointly updated guidance on fraud prevention and detection at the May 2007 elections. The guidance sets out the main electoral offences—including the offence of undue influence—and suggests appropriate police action in response to any allegations of fraud or impropriety that are made.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that the procedures in place to verify the personal identity of those people who vote by post are consistent with those in place to verify the identity of those who vote in person. [130072]

Bridget Prentice: Under provisions in the Electoral Administration Act 2006, as approved by Parliament, a greater level of security has been put in place for postal voting than for voters in polling stations, in order to address particular concerns about the security of postal voting.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether her Department intends to extend to other parts of the UK the system in place in Northern Ireland which uses national insurance numbers as a means of ensuring greater checks upon the validity of *(a)* voting in person and *(b)* voting by post. [130278]

Bridget Prentice: The national insurance database is primarily used, by the Elections Office for Northern Ireland, to verify the identity of a person registering to vote. It is not used to verify the identity of persons voting in person, although it is also used to verify postal vote applicants.

The Government are currently monitoring the arrangements in Northern Ireland. However, we presently have no plans to verify the identity of registrants, postal voters or persons voting in person against the national insurance database.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what mechanisms are in place to prevent the fraudulent filling in of a postal ballot obtained with false identification. [129321]

Bridget Prentice: Applicants for a postal vote must be included on the electoral register. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 imposes a duty on the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) to ensure electoral registers are accurate and comprehensive. It also strengthens the objections procedures, and enables EROs to act upon any objections made to a person's entry on the register, and to initiate an investigation into a person's entry on the register if the ERO is in doubt about whether the person is entitled to be registered.

The Act creates the new offence of falsely applying for a postal vote.

The Act also establishes a scheme that provides for the use of personal identifiers by postal voters. They require persons voting by post to provide their signature and date of birth, both when they apply for a postal vote and when they return their postal vote at an election. Checks will be done to ensure the personal identifiers match.

If an ERO is in doubt about the validity of a postal vote application he may make further inquiries with the applicant, and if necessary, he may report the matter to the police. Signatures and dates of birth will be stored by the ERO, and will be important evidence in the event of any investigation into suspected fraudulent applications.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the costs of countering fraud in postal voting across the UK during the next *(a)* national and *(b)* local elections; [129336]

(2) what the estimated costs are of countering fraud across the UK during the next *(a)* national and *(b)* local elections. [129455]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have provided £21.1 million to cover the new measures introduced within the Electoral Administration Act 2006, and Representation of the People Regulations 2006, including new anti-fraud measures. In addition, we have committed up to £12.2 million, spread over 2006-07 and 2007-08, to provide to local authorities in England and Wales to cover the specific costs of implementing the absent voter personal identifiers provisions in the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

The precise amount of ongoing funding provided by local authorities to electoral services is not known at present. However, under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Electoral Commission will be able to obtain financial information from electoral administrators which will enable accurate data on electoral spending to be made available.

Funding for the running of the next General Election will be agreed at the appropriate time. That funding will include money for postal voting arrangements.

Courts: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will extend the pilot scheme for drugs courts. [130357]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 22 January 2007, *Office Report*, column 1495W. Dedicated drug courts are being piloted by the Department for Constitutional Affairs at Leeds and West London magistrates courts and an independent evaluation of the pilots will be complete by summer 2007. This will determine if this drug court model delivers benefits and will inform the potential for extended operation.

Courts: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many incidents of violence were recorded on the Northern Ireland courts estate in each of the past three years for which figures are available, broken down by location; and what steps she is taking to reduce such incidents. [129512]

Bridget Prentice: The following table sets out recorded incidents of violence on the Northern Ireland courts estate in the last three years.

	2004	2005	2006
Belfast combined courts	3	2	1
Craigavon	1	—	—
Lisburn	—	1	—
Coleraine	—	—	1
Strabane	—	—	1
Newtownards	—	—	1
Total	4	3	4

Court security is provided by a private contractor. Sufficient numbers of security personnel and a range of security measures are deployed to deter incidents of violence, including archway and hand-held scanners at entrances and segregation of opposing parties. If required, additional security is provided by the Police Service of Northern Ireland who also respond to reported incidents.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many security officers were employed in each location on the Northern Ireland court estate in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by grade. [129704]

Bridget Prentice: The following table details how many security officers were employed in each location on the Northern Ireland courts estate in the last three years.

Full-time equivalent

	Staff at March: 2005		2006		2007	
Grade	*Supervisor*	*Guard*	*Supervisor*	*Guard*	*Supervisor*	*Guard*
Antrim	1	15	1	13.5	1	13.5
Armagh	1	5.5	1	5.5	1	5.5
Ballymena	1	11.5	1	10.5	1	10.5
Bangor	0	2	0	2	0	2
Banbridge	0	3	0	3	0	0
Royal Courts of Justice	2	27	2	26	2	26
Old Townhall	1	12	1	11.5	1	11.5
Laganside Courts	1	37	1	37	1	37
Headline Building	0	3	0	3	0	3
Coleraine	1	7.5	1	7.5	1	7.5
Craigavon	1	12.5	1	12	1	12
Downpatrick	1	11.5	1	11	1	11
Dungannon	1	12	1	12	1	12
Enniskillen	1	5	1	5	1	5
Larne	0	1	0	1	0	1
Limavady	0	1	0	1	0	1
Lisburn	1	5	1	5	1	5
Londonderry	1	15.5	1	15.5	1	15.5
Magherafelt	0	1	0	1	0	1
Mays Chambers	0	0	0	0	0	3
Newry	1	14	1	13	1	14
Newtownards	1	6.5	1	6.5	1	6.5
Omagh	1	11	1	11	1	11
Strabane	1	3.5	1	3.5	1	3.5
Total	241		235		236	

Elections: Petitions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many complaints have been made to the police about election petitions in the last five years. [129346]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not held centrally.

Electoral Commission: Powers

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether her

Department plans to strengthen the Electoral Commission's powers to take investigative and enforcement action. [129320]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are considering the recent review of the Electoral Commission by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and also the recommendations of the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee and Sir Hayden Phillips that relate to the regulatory role of the Electoral Commission.

The Government will provide a considered response in due course.

Electoral Register

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) whether her Department plans to ensure that a consistent approach is adopted by all local authorities in ensuring that individuals register to vote; [129423]

(2) how the Government plan to enforce registration of all voters at a local authority level. [129344]

Bridget Prentice: Sections 9 and 10 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006), set out the necessary steps that all local authorities must follow to ensure that eligible individuals are registered to vote.

These steps include sending the canvass form more than once to any address, conducting house to house enquiries and making contact by such other means as appropriate. Each local authority will adopt an approach which is appropriate to local circumstances, within the context of the necessary steps.

Section 67 of the EAA 2006 allows the Electoral Commission to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services. The Commission is currently developing electoral registration indicators and these should be implemented across England and Wales during December 2007. The aim of these indicators is to improve performance in electoral services, which will help to increase registration levels and compile a more accurate register.

European Land Information Service

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what funding from the public purse has been provided for the European Land Information Service. [129364]

Bridget Prentice: There has been no funding of the European Land Information Service (EULIS) from public expenditure. The service has been developed and financed by a consortium of European land registration authorities, including HM Land Registry, with support from the European Commission's eContent and eTEN funding programmes. Land Registry is a trading fund and, as such, finances its operations from fee income and makes no call on public expenditure.

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 622W, on incapacity benefit appeals, what the reasons are for the average clearance time for incapacity benefit appeals; and what measures she is putting in place to improve performance. [129391]

Vera Baird: The figures given in response to the previous question relate to the average time from when the appeal is lodged in the Department for Work and Pensions until the date for the first hearing.

The average waiting time performance and actual performance within the Tribunals Service is contained in the following table.

Weeks

	Performance target	*Actual performance*
2003-04	13	11.2
2004-05	11	10.4
2005-06	11	10.4

The aim of the Tribunals Service is to list incapacity benefit appeals to the first available session on receipt of the pre-hearing enquiry form from the appellant. In determining this date, a balance needs to be struck between how soon an appeal can be heard and giving customers sufficient time in which to prepare for their hearing including seeking representation and further medical evidence in support of their appeal.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average success rate is of appeals against refusal of incapacity benefit *(a)* overall, *(b)* made in person and *(c)* made on the basis of written evidence alone. [129392]

Vera Baird: The latest available data are contained in the following tables.

Table 1: Hearing outcomes by type of attendance and benefit in the quarter ending March 2006

	Benefit/tax credit	
Cleared at hearing (oral and paper)	*Incapacity benefit (personal capability assessment)*	*Incapacity benefit (not personal capability assessment)*
Appeals cleared at hearing	11,675	1,185
Appeals decided in favour of appellant	5,560	425
Percentage	47.6	35.9

Table 2: Hearing outcomes by type of attendance and benefit in the quarter ending March 2006

	Benefit/tax credit	
Appellant only attended	*Incapacity benefit (personal capability assessment)*	*Incapacity benefit (not personal capability assessment)*
Appeals cleared at hearing	3,625	305
Appeals decided in favour of appellant	2,215	155
Percentage	61.1	50.8

Table 3: Hearing outcomes by type of attendance and benefit in the quarter ending March 2006

	Appeals cleared at hearing	
Representative only attended	*Incapacity benefit (personal capability assessment)*	*Incapacity benefit (not personal capability assessment)*
Appeals cleared at hearing	170	25
Appeals decided in favour of appellant	75	15
Percentage	44.1	60.0

Table 4: Hearing outcomes by type of attendance and benefit in the quarter ending March 2006

	Appeals cleared at hearing	
Both appellant and representative attended	*Incapacity benefit (personal capability assessment)*	*Incapacity benefit (not personal capability assessment)*
Appeals cleared at hearing	2,965	215
Appeals decided in favour of appellant	2,190	150
Percentage	73.9	69.8

Table 5: Hearing outcomes by type of attendance and benefit in the quarter ending March 2006

	Appeals cleared at hearing	
Not attended	*Incapacity benefit (personal capability assessment)*	*Incapacity benefit (not personal capability assessment)*
Appeals cleared at hearing	4,235	580
Appeals decided in favour of appellant	730	90
Percentage	17.2	15.5

Table 6: Hearing outcomes by type of attendance and benefit in the quarter ending March 2006

	Appeals cleared at hearing	
Attendance not known	*Incapacity benefit (personal capability assessment)*	*Incapacity benefit (not personal capability assessment)*
Attendance not known		
Appeals cleared at hearing	680	60
Appeals decided in favour of appellant	350	20
Percentage	51.5	33.3

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter to her dated 20 February from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Anwar Mortlock. [129349]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor responded to my right hon. Friend's letter on 21 March. I apologise for the delay.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she expects to reply to the letters of *(a)* 23 November 2006 and *(b)* 1 March 2007 on Mr. Nettleingham from the hon. Member for Billericay. [130159]

Vera Baird: My hon. Friend Baroness Ashton of Upholland replied to the hon. Gentleman's letter on 22 March. I apologise for the delay.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Afghan law permits the cultivation of opium for medicinal use. [127690]

Margaret Beckett: The Afghan counter-narcotics law was passed as a decree in December 2005. In order to allow Afghanistan to fulfil its obligations under the 1972 UN convention on drugs and its protocols, the law has provisions for the licensed cultivation of opium poppy.

However, the counter-narcotics law is currently being redrafted. This follows representations from members of the Afghan Parliament asking for the provision for legal cultivation to be removed, as opium cultivation is against Article 7 of the Constitution.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mandate the UK has as the G8 lead nation for counter-narcotics in Afghanistan; whether this mandate has changed in the last 12 months; and what plans there are for the mandate to be changed before 2010. [127691]

Margaret Beckett: Following the Bonn Agreement in 2001, a number of G8 countries took on lead responsibility for specific Security Sector Reform work. The UK took lead responsibility for counter narcotics. When the Afghan Compact was agreed at the London Conference in early 2006, the international community recognised the progress that had been made since the Bonn Agreement. It was agreed with the Afghan Government that the concept of lead nation was now redundant, they now had lead responsibility for all aspects of Security Sector Reform, and that the G8 countries should become partner nations. There are no plans for our mandate to change before 2010.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's counter-narcotics strategy is in Afghanistan in relation to the production of cannabis; and if she will make a statement. [127693]

Margaret Beckett: The cultivation of cannabis is against Afghan law and is covered by the Afghan Government's national drug control strategy. The UK's counter narcotics effort in Afghanistan is focused on supporting implementation of the national drug control strategy with regards to the heroin trade.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the UK plays in the Good Performance Initiative in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [127694]

Margaret Beckett: The UK supports the Good Performers Initiative (GPI) which is a partnership between the international community and the Afghan Government, established in late 2006, designed to assist and encourage provinces in Afghanistan to reduce poppy cultivation by providing funds for development projects. To date, the six provinces that were opium poppy free in 2006 have been awarded US $500,000 each, and eight provinces that cultivated less than 1,000 hectares of opium poppy in 2006 have been awarded US $150,000. Funding of the GPI will in future be discussed through the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund, to which the UK is a contributor.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aids

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to provide UK officials and development advisers in Helmand province in Afghanistan, as set out in the Enduring Relationship Action Plan 2006-07; what their role is expected to be; and from which Government Departments she expects them to come. [128396]

Margaret Beckett: Advisers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development, Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit and the police are already working out of our provincial reconstruction team in Helmand province. They are involved in a range of good governance activities designed to extend the Government's influence across the province.

Colombia: Human Rights

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of abuses of human rights in Colombia; and if she will make a statement. [129617]

Mr. McCartney: Human rights are at the heart of our policy towards Colombia and we keep the human rights situation in Colombia under constant review.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Right's (UNHCHR) latest report on Colombia, published on 15 March, provides a thorough assessment of the human rights situation in the country. It highlights continuing areas of concern, but also recognises the positive commitment by the Colombian Government, and the concrete progress made in several key areas. We very much agree with the thrust of the report and believe that it is important to recognise advances as well as challenges facing Colombia. We will continue to support the UNHCHR Office in Colombia in their valuable work with the Colombian Government, international community and civil society.

A copy of the report will be placed in the Library of the House.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK Government have made to the *(a)* Government of Colombia and *(b)* International Labour Organisation on the rights of trade unions to operate in Colombia. [129616]

Mr. McCartney: I met with Colombian Vice President Santos at the UN Human Rights Council in March. While I welcomed the significant progress that Colombia had made, I pointed out that civil society and trade union development in Colombia continued to present big challenges.

My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, has met with both British and Colombian trade unionists in the UK and Colombia. This close contact was enhanced during his visit to the region in September 2006 when he met again with trade unions in order to strengthen, links, learn from shared experiences and to demonstrate the importance the UK attaches to the role of civil society in Colombia. There was detailed discussions of the role of the new International Labour Organisation (ILO) office in Bogota, Colombia. Our Embassy in Bogota also regularly communicates with Colombian trade unions.

We remain concerned that threats against trade unionists and human rights defenders remain in Colombia. However, we are encouraged by the positive steps the Government of Colombia have been taking to improve the human rights situation. For example, a new unit of specialised prosecutors has been established to deal with cases of human rights abuses involving trade unionists, with greater resources—a point specifically welcomed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in his report on Colombia, published on 15 March.

We continue to urge the Government of Colombia to meet their international obligations in regard to workers' rights. But we believe that change can be best achieved through a supportive approach; and consider the ILO's Special Technical Co-operation Programme for Colombia to be one of the most effective ways of helping to bring about real and positive improvement in workers' rights in that country. We are encouraged that the ILO has established an office in Colombia and hope that this will be a step forward in improving labour issues in the country.

Cyprus

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received on *(a)* proposals for the development of land in the Morphou area of Cyprus for tourist purposes and *(b)* proposals to distribute Greek Cypriot-owned land in the area to young Turkish settlers; and what steps she plans to take in response to the proposals. [130003]

Mr. Hoon: We are aware of property development in the Morphou area, and have received representations from hon. Members, including the question tabled by my hon. Friend in February of last year. As explained in the response the previous Minister for Europe on 7 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 738, we maintain dialogue with the Turkish Cypriot community leaders on the issue of property, but are unable to control property development in northern Cyprus. We believe that the difficult and complex issue of property is only likely to be resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement. To this end, we continue to urge both sides to engage constructively with the United Nations to enable settlement negotiations to start as soon as possible.

European Movement

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has met representatives of the European Movement since assuming her position. [129245]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not formally met representatives from the European Movement since assuming her position, but I have had the opportunity to meet a range of contacts. For instance, in January 2007, I spoke at a panel-style debate organised by the European Movement as part of a series of "Speak Up Europe" debates being held across the European Union. On 22 March, I gave a keynote speech at a European Movement conference at Chatham House called "Celebrating 50 years of the Treaty of Rome".

European Union

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what involvement the UK Government have had on the drafting of the Declaration of Berlin. [129542]

Mr. Hoon: Chancellor Merkel wrote to Heads of State and Government in January asking each member state to nominate a 'focal point' and accompanying aide to liaise with the Presidency in their consultations in preparation for the 50th Anniversary Declaration. The UK 'focal points' are Mr. Kim Darroch (Head of the Cabinet Office European Secretariat) and Ms Shan Morgan (EU Director in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

The German Presidency drafted the Berlin Declaration. During that process they consulted all member states on what they wished to see included in the text.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there is a deadline for a formal response by the President of Sudan to the UN Secretary-General's letter of 24 January requesting Sudanese agreement to the heavy support package of United Nations support to the African Union Mission in the Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [127163]

Margaret Beckett: The UN Secretary-General did not set a deadline for President Bashir to respond to his letter of 24 January. However, President Bashir's delay in doing so, and now his refusal to endorse the Heavy Support Package as agreed between the AU and UN, highlights Sudan's reluctance to have the UN deploy in Darfur. This is part of a wider pattern of non-co-operation with the international community. The UK will be pushing for tougher measures in the Security Council against Sudan, including a country-wide arms embargo and further targeted sanctions.

Venezuela

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the US Administration on their attempts to prevent Venezuela from attending the Community Democracies meeting in Malawi scheduled for June 2007. [129502]

Mr. Hoon: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials have made no representations to the US Administration on their position on Venezuelan attendance at the Community of Democracies meeting scheduled for Bamako, Mali, in November 2007.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowances

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of both carer's allowance and working tax credits in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [127965]

Mrs. McGuire: The requested information is not currently available.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to ensure that single parents receive the same weekly rate of carer's allowance as a parent living with a spouse, civil partner or another person; and if he will make a statement. [129603]

Mrs. McGuire: The rate of carer's allowance is the same whether being claimed by a single parent or a member of a couple.

Children: Maintenance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether regulations on time limits which apply to the collection of civil debts also apply to the collection by the Child Support Agency of historical arrears of child maintenance. [128084]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 27 March 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether regulations on time limits which apply to the collection of civil debts also apply to the collection by the Child Support Agency of historic arrears of child maintenance. [128084]

When a non-resident parent has defaulted on child support payments, and arrears have accrued, as a result the Child Support Agency may instigate debt recovery by alternative measures such as of civil court action or by employing the services of an external collection agency. If the non-resident parent is employed then a Deduction from Earnings Order may be implemented to recover both ongoing child support maintenance and an amount towards arrears.

Although in England and Wales most civil debt is subject to the Statute of Limitations, the time bar relating to collection of child maintenance debt is determined by the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992, Regulation 28 (2A) as amended by the Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2006. When pursuing collection and enforcement through the courts this legislation has the effect of removing the 6 year limitation in respect of all amounts that became due after 12 July 2000. The Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Act 1973, limits the age of debt recoverable through the Scottish civil courts to twenty years.

Where a Deduction from Earnings Order has been implemented there is no time bar limiting the age of the arrears that can be recovered using this method.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of repeat applications for disability living allowance for under 18-year-olds *(a)* were down rated and *(b)* received no new award in the last period for which figures are available; what proportion of such applications were appealed in that period; and what proportion of those appeals were successful. [129796]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the take-up rate of disability living allowance for children; and if he will make a statement. [129797]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of households in receipt of disability living allowance for a child receive it for *(a)* two children and *(b)* three or more children. [129798]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households receiving disability living allowance for a child are in receipt of carer's allowance for an adult. [129806]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Full Employment Agency: Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of staff who will be employed by the new Full Employment Agency in Scotland. [120311]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Full Employment Agency is a matter which we are discussing with the Scottish Executive. No estimate has been made by DWP of the cost of the number of staff who will be employed by the proposed agency.

Independent Living Fund

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many thefts of the Independent Living Fund's back-up tapes of personal data there have been in the last 12 months. [122851]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been advised by the trustees that in the last 12 months there has been one theft of an Independent Living Fund's back-up tape containing personal data.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* all leavers, *(b)* female leavers and *(c)* male leavers from new deal 50 plus (i) found unsubsidised jobs and (ii) returned to jobseeker's allowance on leaving the programme in each year since 2000. [118806]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the table.

New deal 50 plus

		Percentage of leavers with an immediate destination of:	
Leavers	*Year of leaving*	*Unsubsidised employment*	*Jobseeker's allowance*
All	2004	44	26
	2005	38	31
Male	2004	44	28
	2005	37	33
Female	2004	44	20
	2005	40	27

Notes:
Information on the immediate destination of leavers from new deal 50 plus is only available from February 2004.
Figures are based on calendar years. Earliest data are for February 2004 and latest data are to May 2006.
Latest complete year data are to December 2005.
Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were on the New Deal 25 plus programme in each month since 1998; and how many were in the *(a)* Gateway and *(b)* Intensive Activity Period in each month. [124438]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 1 March 2007]:* The available information is in the following table.

	New deal 25 plus		
		Of which, participating in:	
	Total participants	Gateway	Intensive activity period
2001			
April	10,580	10,470	110
May	18,930	18,520	410
June	27,520	26,280	1,210
July	33,610	31,380	2,160
August	40,660	36,400	4,070
September	45,230	38,400	6,470
October	48,850	39,500	8,710
November	53,320	40,720	11,330
December	56,410	42,420	11,890
2002			
January	57,530	41,410	13,190
February	57,830	39,720	14,330
March	58,190	37,940	15,550
April	58,410	37,260	15,820
May	59,060	36,970	15,940
June	58,970	36,570	15,730
July	58,960	36,350	15,540
August	58,920	36,660	14,810
September	58,170	35,830	15,020
October	62,000	39,870	15,040
November	64,430	42,100	15,330
December	65,800	43,750	14,710
2003			
January	65,870	43,520	14,930
February	65,220	41,870	15,900
March	64,300	40,190	16,770
April	64,300	40,100	16,720
May	64,110	39,830	16,230
June	63,020	38,780	16,070
July	62,020	37,810	15,900
August	61,130	37,310	15,110
September	60,010	36,400	14,910
October	58,950	35,560	14,790
November	57,980	34,800	14,870
December	57,990	35,260	14,120
2004			
January	57,180	35,020	13,940
February	56,420	34,450	13,890
March	55,350	33,750	13,800
April	54,690	33,350	13,350
May	54,610	33,420	13,150
June	54,330	33,230	13,180
July	54,350	33,310	13,260
August	55,160	34,150	13,220
September	54,930	33,980	13,180
October	54,490	33,700	13,330
November	54,570	33,580	13,440
December	55,500	34,810	12,740
2005			
January	55,350	34,640	12,820
February	55,410	34,290	13,250
March	54,770	33,460	13,480
April	53,810	32,820	13,060
May	53,320	32,470	12,640
June	52,780	32,140	12,410
July	51,570	31,600	11,890
August	50,970	31,650	11,150
September	49,690	31,180	10,520
October	48,720	30,970	10,040
November	48,200	31,180	9,710
December	48,560	32,060	9,040
2006			
January	48,410	31,940	9,240
February	48,630	31,920	9,660
March	48,590	31,610	10,240
April	48,650	31,430	10,210
May	49,210	32,080	9,820
June	49,510	32,110	10,080
July	49,970	33,400	9,190
August	50,820	34,240	9,390

Notes:
1. Information is only available from April 2001.
2. Gateway figures include people who have been invited to their first Gateway interview but who may not yet have attended the interview.
3. Participant figures include those on the 'follow-through' stage of the programme which occurs after the intensive activity period.
4. Latest information is to August 2006.
5. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were eligible to participate in each of the new deal programmes when each was initiated. [125896]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information available is in the following table.

	Date new deal started	Number of people eligible to participate
New deal for young people (NDYP)	April 1998	113,000
New deal 25 plus (ND 25+)	July 1998	168,000
New deal for lone parents (NDLP)	October 1998	[1]939,000
New deal for partners (NDP)	April 1999	87,000
New deal 50 plus (ND50+)	April 2000	[1]1,455,002
New deal for disabled people (NDDP)	July 2001	[2]2,805,000

Notes:
1. Data are held quarterly so the figure given is for November 1998.
2. Data are held quarterly so the figure given is for May 2000.
3. Data are held quarterly so the figure given is for August 2001.
4. NDYP is a mandatory programme for claimants aged 18-24 who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for six months.
5. ND25+ is a mandatory programme which was initially introduced for claimants aged 25 and over who had been claiming JSA for two years.
6. NDLP is a voluntary programme. Lone parents can participate if they are not working, or working less than 16 hours per week, and their youngest child is under 16 years old.
7. NDP is a voluntary programme. When it was initially introduced in April 1999, partners of claimants who had been claiming JSA for at least 26 weeks were eligible to join the programme.
8. ND50+ is a voluntary programme which supports people aged 50 or over who have been claiming benefits including JSA, income support, incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance for six months or more.
9. NDDP is a voluntary programme for disabled people who are in receipt of certain qualifying benefit (for example, incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance).

Pathways to Work

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have passed through Pathways to Work programmes in each year since their inception, broken down by *(a)* area and *(b)* whether the participants had a physical or mental disability; and what proportion obtained work in each case. [102173]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the tables.

Note that the figures for those entering work are for those recorded as doing so on Jobcentre Plus systems and will understate true work outcomes.

Jobs measured by the Job Entry Target (JET) up to March 2006 are for the most part job opportunities that customers have been submitted to by JCP staff and that JCP staff have followed up to confirm the job entry, or jobs from NDDP brokers. Not all jobs obtained by people who have made an IB claim in a Pathways to Work area will be obtained in this manner as they would also be looking at newspaper ads, employment agencies, the internet, word of mouth, etc.

Since April 2006 jobs have been measured via the Job Outcome Target (JOT). This is based on HMRC income tax payment records it not a complete measure of all job entries for a number of reasons. For example; a large proportion of part-time/lower paid jobs will not be reported as they are below the tax threshold.

Numbers starting pathways to work in each district

District	October 2003 to March 2004	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006
Derbyshire	8,500	14,440	14,970
Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Argyll and Bute	4,390	8,800	10,010
Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon and Taf	4,720	10,200	11,180
Lancashire East	—	10,990	12,460
Somerset	—	6,780	7,000
Gateshead and South Tyneside	—	9,130	9,860
Essex	—	20,060	20,490
Cumbria	—	—	3,640
Glasgow	—	—	16,090
Lancashire West	—	—	5,010
Tees Valley	—	—	3,770
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	—	—	—
City of Sunderland	—	—	—
County Durham	—	—	—
Lanarkshire and East Dumbartonshire	—	—	—
Liverpool and the Wirral	—	—	—
Greater Manchester Central	—	—	—
Swansea Bay and West Wales	—	—	—

Proportions entering work from pathways in each district[1]

District	October 2003 to March 2004 all jobs[2]	Percentage April 2004 to March 2005 all jobs
Derbyshire	17	16
Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Argyll and Bute	24	22
Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon and Taf	23	21
Lancashire East	—	19
Somerset	—	19
Gateshead and South Tyneside	—	17
Essex	—	11

Numbers starting pathways to work by type of disability

Disability	October 2003 to March 2004	April 2004 to March 2005	April 2005 to March 2006
Mental Health Condition	4,560	21,720	33,090
Physical Disability	6,570	33,820	46,130
Not known/not yet diagnosed	4,760	25,200	35,540

Proportions entering work from pathways by type of disability[1]

Disability	October 2003 to March 2004 all jobs[2]	Percentage April 2004 to March 2005 all jobs
Mental Health Condition	23	19
Physical Disability	19	16

Proportions entering work from pathways by type of disability[1]

Percentage

Disability	October 2003 to March 2004 all jobs[2]	April 2004 to March 2005 all jobs
Not known/not yet diagnosed	21	17

[1] The proportions entering work for this period are based on new claimants only, excluding the small number of existing customers brought in during this period.
[2] Jobs recorded in Jobcentre Plus systems—the true proportion entering work will be higher than this.
Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. A value of '-' indicates a nil or negligible value. A value of '.' indicates that the value has not been calculated.
2. As pathways began in October 2003, the first year covers approximately six months. The second and third years, based on an operational year, run from April until March. The last year covers approximately three months, until the last recorded data in June 2006.
3. Data for starts on pathways are to end of June 2006. Data for job entries are to end of March 2006. No more recent data are available for job entries because the previous job entry measure was terminated in March 2006, and the new job outcomes target data which replaced it have an approximate six month reporting lag, so that April 2006 data are not yet available. Because of the time it takes for pathways participants to find work, the latest cohort of entrants for whom it is possible to give a meaningful figure for proportion entering work is those starting in September 2005. Even then, this figure is potentially misleading if compared with earlier cohorts, as many find work more than six months after joining. To give a more useful comparison over time, the proportion finding jobs within six months is also given.
4. Additionally, this understates total job entries since it only counts those recorded in Jobcentre Plus systems. Survey data from the independent evaluation suggest for example that 42 per cent. of pathways participants had done at least some paid work in the 10 months after starting..
5. Job entry figures include all recorded job entries plus return to work credit (RTWC) awards for which no job entry is yet recorded. (By definition, an RTWC award must indicate that a job entry has occurred). Figures for job entries include new deal for disabled people (NDDP) job starts.
6. Data for physical disability are based on those participants for whom a medical condition is recorded, but whose condition is not classified as a mental health condition.
7. The data on medical condition for Pathways to Work participants are incomplete. This is because they are drawn from incapacity benefit data that appear in the National Benefits Database (NBD). This impacts on the completeness of pathways medical condition data in two ways; (1) NBD lags behind other Pathways Evaluation Database sources by some three to four months, and (2) The NBD incapacity benefit data are based on a six-weekly snapshot, which means that some short-term claims of less than six weeks are not included.
Source:
Pathways to Work Evaluation Database

Personal Income

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people earned over the *(a)* £5, *(b)* £10 and *(c)* £20 per week earning disregard and had their income support for incapacity reduced in each of the last three years. [127907]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The information is not available.

Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the next publication of Households Below Average Income is due. [129818]

Mr. Plaskitt: The next publication of Households Below Average Income is due on 27 March 2007.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid to individual *(a)* male and *(b)* female recipients aged (i) 18 to 25, (ii) 26 to 30, (iii) 31 to 40, (iv) 41 to 50, (v) 51 to 60, (vi) 61 to 70, (vii) 71 to 80 and (viii) over 80 years excluding pensions and pension credits in the last period for which figures are available. [127009]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Benefits Rules

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of people who are undertaking permitted work; [130243]

(2) how many people claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* severe disablement allowance and *(c)* income support for incapacity are recorded as undertaking permitted work. [130247]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer I gave on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1079W.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department records the number of people undertaking permitted work. [130246]

Mrs. McGuire: Yes.

Social Security Benefits: Carers

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of benefits provided to carers working more than 35 hours per week who receive *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* the carer's allowance; what the basis is for the differences in the amounts paid via the different channels; and if he will make a statement. [128477]

Mrs. McGuire: These benefits are designed to help carers in very different circumstances. Income support and the income-based element of jobseekers allowance, both of which include extra help for carers, are intended to ensure that people of working age and their families can meet all their normal daily living needs when they are out of work. Carer's allowance provides a measure of income-maintenance to those carers who provide at least 35 hours of care each week for a severely disabled person, but who are not entitled to additional means-tested support from the benefit system.

We have introduced improvements for carers in all these benefits, in addition to the normal annual uprating. We also review the adequacy of these benefits at regular intervals.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost of increasing the earning disregard for *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* income support for incapacity and (c) carer's allowance. [127819]

Mrs. McGuire: Part-time work while on incapacity benefit is covered by the permitted work rules and while on carer's allowance by an earnings limit, rather than the earnings disregards.

DWP has no reliable estimate of the cost of changing the earnings disregard limit in income support for sick and disabled people. The cost varies widely according to the nature of the change being proposed.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what projects his Department has undertaken with the Staffordshire Police Authority to combat fraudulent activities in relation to benefits in the last 12 months. [128330]

Mr. Plaskitt: Investigators from the Department for Work and Pensions collaborates with officers from Staffordshire police authority on cases where they have a common interest and where the Department requires police assistance.

An example of current joint working with Staffordshire police authority is Operation Oblique. This was set up to investigate a number of girocheques which were reported as missing but were subsequently discovered to have been cashed. The investigation is continuing and at least one person has so far been arrested.

As well as investigations relating to benefit fraud, DWP also works with Staffordshire police on investigations which relate to the integrity of the national insurance number system.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology the Government use to decide what annual pension increase to award. [129619]

James Purnell: The level of the uprating for state pensions is calculated using the increase in the retail prices index for the 12 months ending in the preceding September. This enables us to complete the action necessary to ensure that the new rates for over 11 million pensioners are put into payment in April.

TREASURY

Breast Cancer: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women *(a)* were diagnosed with and *(b)* died from breast cancer in each of the last five years; and what the figures were for each London borough. [130241]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 27 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many women (a) were diagnosed with and (b) died from breast cancer in each of the last five years; and what the figures were for each London borough. [130241]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant neoplasm of breast are for the years 2004. Figures for 2000-2004 for England and the London boroughs are given in Table 1 below.

The latest available figures for deaths are for the year 2005. Figures for 2001-2005 for England and the London boroughs are given in Table 2 below.

Table 1: registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of breast[1] in females 2000-04: England and London boroughs[2]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
England	34,712	35,315	35,149	37,283	36,939
Barking and Dagenham	98	82	126	101	59
Barnet	203	213	215	171	200
Bexley	156	168	132	180	173
Brent	117	136	128	129	130
Bromley	216	254	250	257	221
Camden	113	97	81	107	123
Croydon	218	200	244	187	223
Ealing	149	161	129	186	137
Enfield	158	188	164	159	152
Greenwich	131	134	146	129	114
Hackney	115	79	85	101	67
Hammersmith and Fulham	91	85	64	88	62
Haringey	109	113	87	112	98
Harrow	153	133	141	172	130
Havering	148	169	138	195	168
Hillingdon	129	126	152	126	130
Hounslow	121	98	95	120	99
Islington	97	81	87	79	63
Kensington and Chelsea	82	113	109	94	68
Kingston Upon Thames	120	109	110	99	98
Lambeth	144	101	146	126	137
Lewisham	125	140	147	112	137
Merton	109	119	109	144	102
Newham	78	87	99	79	91
Redbridge	124	147	114	162	141
Richmond Upon Thames	122	100	129	145	104
Southwark	123	124	131	137	115
Sutton	125	128	89	129	90
Tower Hamlets	72	66	67	75	82

Table 1: registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of breast[1] in females 2000-04: England and London boroughs[2]

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Waltham Forest	123	105	108	115	86
Wandsworth	117	134	156	138	148
Westminster	126	124	124	147	87

[1] Malignant neoplasm of breast is defined as code C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10).
[2] Using 2007 local authority boundaries for all years shown.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: mortality in females from malignant neoplasm of breast[1], England and London boroughs[2], 2001-05[3]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England	10,860	10,795	10,501	10,288	10,297
Barking and Dagenham	34	32	35	34	36
Barnet	66	68	71	80	59
Bexley	51	45	55	36	34
Brent	46	46	44	34	42
Bromley	65	69	61	68	56
Camden	37	29	25	33	26
Croydon	61	72	64	69	67
Ealing	45	38	52	45	48
Enfield	52	43	50	43	54
Greenwich	44	48	45	36	35
Hackney	24	33	27	28	21
Hammersmith and Fulham	27	21	26	22	20
Haringey	37	28	36	30	36
Harrow	38	36	49	40	43
Havering	73	59	57	51	57
Hillingdon	53	52	47	60	56
Hounslow	46	37	42	41	38
Islington	24	28	29	25	21
Kensington and Chelsea	24	25	18	22	13
Kingston Upon Thames	19	39	30	21	20
Lambeth	37	41	31	34	35
Lewisham	44	55	49	43	48
Merton	46	35	33	35	38
Newham	41	24	34	35	18
Redbridge	47	54	51	40	44
Richmond Upon Thames	42	29	26	34	35
Southwark	25	44	32	34	32
Sutton	39	38	41	26	34
Tower Hamlets	26	21	24	30	19
Waltham Forest	43	48	39	34	32
Wandsworth	42	37	33	36	34
Westminster	32	32	38	35	31

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50 for years 2001-05, for malignant neoplasm of breast.
[2] Using 2007 local authority boundaries for deaths for all years shown.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Corporation Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for the proposed rewrite of corporation tax law. [129417]

Dawn Primarolo: The first of the proposed corporation tax rewrite Bills is expected to be enacted early in 2009 and the second a year later. This will complete the proposed rewrite of corporation tax legislation. The timetable has been agreed by the Tax Law Rewrite project's Steering and Consultative Committees.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost of the corporation tax rewrite to *(a)* the Government and *(b)* business. [129694]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of the work of the Tax Law Rewrite project in relation to the rewrite of corporation tax is estimated to be £10 million spread over the years 2005-06 to 2009-10.

The cost of the rewrite to business will mainly arise through tax professionals spending time becoming familiar with the rewritten legislation. It has not been possible to quantify this cost. But users have expressed confidence that the clearer legislation in those Acts will result in efficiency savings many times greater than this initial cost.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the tax code on corporation tax has been determined since *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2000. [129086]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not currently available and the cost of providing a precise answer would be disproportionate.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on his proposals for a corporation tax law rewrite Bill. [129087]

Dawn Primarolo: The Tax Law Rewrite project was set up in 1996 under the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr. Clarke), the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Shortly after this the project issued a consultation document outlining proposals for taking the work forward. There were over 70 written responses including responses from most of the representative bodies in the tax field.

There was unanimous support for the general proposals and nearly the same level of support for rewriting and separating the income tax and corporation tax codes, a proposal which has been adopted.

Extensive consultation has always been a key aspect of the project's work. It has a steering committee and a consultative committee made up of representatives of professional bodies. Its work is also published on the internet for wider consultation.

The first draft corporation tax clauses were published for consultation in 2006 and a response document will be published shortly. The project has also published papers on the scope of the corporation tax rewrite. Its scope has been agreed by both the

steering and the consultative committees. The intention is to complete the rewrite of corporation tax in two Bills.

Debt and Derivatives

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on proposals to rewrite the tax law in relation to debt and derivatives. [129085]

Dawn Primarolo: The Tax Law Rewrite project's work involves widespread consultation with representative bodies and others interested in tax legislation. In the ordinary course of this process, representations have been received by the project about whether the loan relationships and derivative contract legislation should be rewritten and if so, when.

The Consultative Committee of the Tax Law Rewrite project is made up of a wide range of representative bodies including those that made representations about this issue. It recently agreed the proposal to include these rewritten provisions in the first of the two corporation tax rewrite Bills. This decision was endorsed by the project's steering committee.

Departments: Conflict of Interests

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many instances there have been under Section 5.17 of the Ministerial Code of a Minister in his Department having duties removed to avoid a potential conflict of interest in the last five years. [120695]

John Healey: All provisions of the Ministerial Code, including those relating to financial interests, have been observed by Treasury Ministers.

EC Budget

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross cash contribution from the UK to the EU *(a)* was in each year since 1997 and *(b)* is expected to be in each year to the end of the 2007 Budget period; what the gross cash receipts from the EU to the UK (i) were and (ii) are expected to be in each year; what the net cash contribution to the EU from the UK (A) was and (B) is expected to be in each year; what the main elements making up the (1) gross contribution and (2) gross receipts (x) were and (y) are expected to be in each year; and what the main factors affecting changes from year to year (aa) were and (bb) are expected to be in each case. [130155]

Ed Balls: The UK gross contribution to the EU budget, receipts, net contribution and the elements thereof for 2000-06, as well as the factors affecting the variations from one year to the next can be found in chapter 3 and the tables on pages 42 and 43 the EC Finances White Paper "Statement on the 2006 EC Budget and measures to counter fraud and financial management" (Cm 6670). The period 1997-99 is covered by the 2003 edition of the EC Finances White Paper (Cm 5800). The 2007 edition of the White Paper, which will cover the years 2001 to 2007, will be published later this year.

A more recent forecast for UK net contributions to the EC budget in the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 can be found in the footnote to table C11 of the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report (HC 342). 2007-08 is the final year of the current public expenditure planning cycle and revised forecasts for the later years will be included in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

For estimated gross and net contributions to the EC budget and receipts over the next Financial Perspective I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), 31 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 399W.

The main factor affecting the changes in both contributions and receipts in the 2007-13 Financial Perspective with respect to earlier years is the accession of 10 new member states in 2004 and of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007.

Housing: Valuation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many valuations were made under section 128 of the Housing Act 1985 by the district valuer in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* Sheffield between 1 September 2005 and 1 February 2006. [127988]

Dawn Primarolo: Within the time frame 1 September 2005 and 1 February 2006, the number of determinations made by the district valuer under section 128 of the Housing Act 1985 are as follows:

Gloucestershire (to include districts of Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Stroud, Tewkesbury and City of Gloucester)—17;

South Gloucestershire (Unitary Authority)—10.

The Sheffield office of the Valuation Office Agency is responsible for determinations in the former Metropolitan county of South Yorkshire. Information has been provided for each district:

City of Sheffield—47;

Metropolitan borough of Rotherham—23;

Metropolitan borough of Doncaster—12;

Metropolitan borough of Barnsley11.

Inheritance Tax

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the inheritance tax threshold was in each year since 1996-97. [129106]

Dawn Primarolo: The nil rate bands for inheritance tax in each of the last 10 financial years are given in table A.8 of HMRC National Statistics, available from the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/inheritance_tax/appendix_a8.pdf.

At Budget 2007 the Chancellor announced that the IHT nil rate band will rise by more than expected statutory indexation to £350,000 in 2010-11.

Isle of Man

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review the common purse agreement on VAT between the UK and the Isle of Man; and how much the UK paid to the Isle of Man under this agreement in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [129497]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The UK-Isle of Man revenue-sharing arrangement applies to a number of indirect taxes including VAT, customs duty and most excise duties, referred to as the "common duties". The Isle of Man's share of the common duties for each of the last 10 years is contained in the Isle of Man Annual Account. This account is certified by the National Audit Office, laid before Parliament and is therefore available from the House of Commons Library.

The formula for calculating the Isle of Man's share of the common duties has recently been jointly reviewed by the UK and the Isle of Man and it has been agreed that a new formula will apply from 1 April 2007. A copy of the revised Treasury Direction, which sets out how the new revenue sharing formula will operate, will be placed in the House of Commons Library at the earliest opportunity.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Government has made of the effect of the landfill tax escalator on *(a)* local authorities' costs of dealing with waste, *(b)* frequency of waste collections and *(c)* council tax bills. [129204]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no net effect on the total cost to local authorities as a whole of increases in the standard rate of landfill tax above 15 per tonne. Provision has been made in the increases in the total revenue support grant for local authorities for the estimated additional revenue.

The impact on the costs of individual local authorities, and so on council tax bills, will depend on the extent of the use of landfill by the authority.

It is for local authorities to determine the nature and frequency of their waste collection service within the legal framework and taking account of local circumstances. Cost will be one consideration in such decisions.

Planning Gain Supplement

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the revenue from planning-gain supplement from English developments in areas outside London he expects to be allocated to the English regional assemblies. [129099]

John Healey: At least 70 per cent. of planning-gain supplement (PGS) revenues would be returned to the local planning authority from which the planning permission was granted, and to which the PGS liability was attached. The Budget announced that the remaining share of all PGS revenues raised in a region would be returned to that region. Regions would have access to a fund for spending in support of regional infrastructure priorities in pursuit of the objectives identified in regional spatial strategies (RSSs).

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the revenue from planning gain supplement in Wales he plans to allocate to *(a)* the Welsh Assembly and *(b)* Welsh local authorities. [129103]

John Healey: As announced at the 2006 pre-Budget report, all planning-gain Supplement (PGS) revenues generated in the devolved Administrations would be returned to the country in which they were generated. The use of PGS funds in the devolved Administrations would be determined by the relevant Administrations, although it is proposed that PGS revenues should be dedicated to infrastructure throughout the UK.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent posts were *(a)* lost and *(b)* created in HM Revenue and Customs between April 2006 and February 2007 at (i) grades Administrative Assistant to Senior Officer, (ii) Grades 6 and 7 and (iii) Senior Civil Service grades. [129872]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* The information requested is not available. HMRC does not record centrally details of all posts created within the department.

However, HMRC has a target to reduce its number of full-time equivalent posts by 16,000 between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2008, and redeploy 3,500 of these to additional frontline posts. HMRC reports regularly on progress towards these efficiency targets in its Spring and Annual Reports, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Social Security Benefits: Orders and Regulations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the advice provided by the Social Security Advisory Council to his Department on *(a)* the Child Benefit (General) Regulations 2005, *(b)* the Child Tax Credits (Amendment) Regulations 2005, *(c)* the Child Tax Credits (Amendment) Regulations 2006, *(d)* the Tax Credits (Claims and Notifications) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 and *(e)* the Tax Credits (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2006; and if he will make a statement. [128938]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer hon. Gentleman to the memorandum of understanding under which terms HMRC and the Social Security Advisory Committee conduct their business. The memorandum is available from the hmrc.gov.uk website or the Committee's website. The links are:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/ir-ssac.pdf

http://www.ssac.org.uk/pdf/keydocs/BusGuideInRev.pdf

Stamp Duty: Carbon Emissions

David Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of

homes built during 2006 which would have been eligible to be exempt from stamp duty as being zero carbon. [130277]

Ed Balls: No data exist on the exact number of homes built in 2006 that would meet the qualifying criteria set out in the Budget for zero carbon homes. As set out in the Budget, the relief will help to kick start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes. The Government's aim is that within a decade all new homes will be zero carbon.

Students: Loans

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007 to question 127940, what estimate he has made of the percentage of student loan repayments made to HM Revenue and Customs in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2003-04 that have not yet been passed on to the Student Loan Company; what estimate he has made of the total value of these payments; and how many people made student loan repayments during 2003-04. [129076]

Dawn Primarolo: For the financial year 2005-06 HM Revenue and Customs will only know the total number of borrowers who have had repayments deducted by their employer when they have finished processing all the employers' annual returns for that year.

However, at the current date, the best estimate is that information on 83 per cent. of all student loan repayments has already been passed on to the Student Loans Company.

For the financial year 2003-04 HMRC has passed information on student loan repayments for 277,499 borrowers to the Student Loans Company. HMRC is in the process of resolving queries that have delayed 21 cases (0.008 per cent.) being passed to the SLC.

With regards to the total value of these payments, no student loan amounts are passed to the SLC at any stage. All student loan amounts recovered by HMRC are passed to the Department for Education and Skills on a quarterly basis for investment in education. It is only the information about borrower repayments that is included in the employer's annual return that is passed to the SLC once that information becomes available after the end of the financial year. Published 2003-04 and 2004-05 student loans cash receipts figures are available in the 2005 and 2006 HM Revenue and Customs annual report which can be accessed at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Tax Havens

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received regarding the 2006 US Senate report into tax havens; and what meetings he has had in the last 12 months with the Isle of Man authorities on this issue. [129498]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* I am not aware of any representations in relation to the 2006 US Senate report on tax havens.

My officials have had a number of meetings with officials from the Isle of Man on tax matters.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to reduce *(a)* tax evasion and *(b)* money laundering in tax haven states. [129499]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The Government support and promote measures that aim to reduce tax evasion and money laundering internationally. In particular, we have worked in partnership with the EU and the OECD to introduce measures that enhance transparency and exchange of information, which is the key to tackling tax evasion. Specific measures include the EU Savings Tax Directive and its framework of agreements with other countries and territories and the OECD initiative on tackling harmful tax practices.

From July 2007, the Government are taking action through the UK's Presidency of the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF—the international standards setter on money laundering and terrorist finance), to identify and tackle the most serious financial threats posed by criminals and terrorists.

Taxation: Hotels

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations have made written representations to his Department on new, additional local taxation on hotel accommodation in the last 12 months, excluding submissions to the Lyons Inquiry. [129588]

John Healey: The Treasury receives numerous written representations on a range of tax issues, including tourist taxes.

In line with the recommendation made by Sir Michael Lyons in his final report into the role and funding of local government that a robust evidence base has not been developed to support the introduction of a tourist tax, the Government do not intend to introduce a tourist tax. Tax policy is kept under constant review and changes are normally announced by the Chancellor at the Budget.

Tax Law Rewrite Project

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Tax Law Rewrite Project has identified changes in the law which would be beneficial but which require a policy decision. [129769]

Dawn Primarolo: Policy suggestions are sometimes made by those responding to draft clauses published by the Tax Law Rewrite project for comment.

These are passed to officials with responsibility for the relevant policy areas for them to consider. All policy suggestions received in response to each draft Bill are listed in the response document for the relevant Bill.

Taxation: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cost of tax relief for approved pension schemes in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [130104]

Ed Balls: Latest detailed estimates of the annual cost of tax relief on approved pension schemes are available in table 7.9 on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

In addition a provisional estimate of the overall net cost of tax relief for the current year is given in table A3.1 of the Budget report. This is £16.3 billion for 2006-07.

Taxation: Small Businesses

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of business taxation was paid by small businesses in the last period for which figures are available. [129367]

John Healey: The proportion of corporation tax paid by small companies in 2004-05 was 23 per cent.

It is not possible to apportion other tax receipts between business taxpayers and others, or between business taxpayers of different sizes. This is due to a number of taxes (for example fuel duty) being paid by both businesses and individuals, and because markets adjust to shift the incidence of taxation throughout the economy.

Figures on total receipts from individual taxes are available in tables 2.1A to 2.1E in Financial Statistics published by the Office for National Statistics.

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/tsdtables1.asp?vlnk=fsf

Valuation Office: Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the Valuation Office Agency in each year since 2000. [129104]

Dawn Primarolo: The numbers of full-time equivalent staff employed by the agency as at the end of March each year are shown in the following table.

	Number
2000	3,803
2001	3,771
2002	3,740
2003	4,000
2004	3,803
2005	4,812
2006	4,850
2007[1]	4,326

1 As at 1 March

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times Tax Credit Office staff reported technical problems with the computer system in each month since January 2006. [124272]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many manual tax credit payments have been made since April 2003; how many claimants have received such payments; and what proportion of all *(a)* payments and *(b)* claimants these represent. [126512]

Dawn Primarolo: Around 1.6 million tax credits payments were made manually from April 2003 to January 2007 inclusive. This represents around one quarter of one per cent. of all payments made since April 2003. Information is not available on the number of claimants who have received manual payments in the same period.

Around 34,500 households are currently receiving manual payments representing around 0.5 per cent. of households currently benefiting from tax credits.

Welfare Tax Credits: EC Accession

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what checks are made on claims for child tax credit by citizens of *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Slovakia, *(c)* Lithuania, *(d)* Estonia and *(e)* Latvia resident in the UK; [127702]

(2) how many citizens of *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Slovakia, *(c)* Latvia, *(d)* Lithuania and *(e)* Estonia are claiming (i) child tax credit and (ii) working tax credit in the UK; [127703]

(3) how many citizens of *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Slovakia, *(c)* Lithuania, *(d)* Latvia and *(e)* Estonia are claiming child benefit in the UK; [127704]

(4) what checks are made on claims for child benefit from citizens of *(a)* Poland, *(b)* Slovakia, *(c)* Latvia, *(d)* Lithuania and *(e)* Estonia. [127705]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* The detailed breakdown requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the last Accession monitoring report, published on 27 February 2007 on the Home Office immigration and nationality directorate's website, http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report, provides detailed information including the total number of workers from the new member states of the EU who have made a claim for child benefit and tax credits.

All claims for tax credits and child benefit are subject to a wide range of checks throughout the life of each claim. It would be inappropriate to disclose a complete list of checks as to do so may provide assistance to those attempting to defraud the system.

Welfare Tax Credits: ICT

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many service credits he has made Capgemini liable for in each month since they took over the tax credit IT system; what the value is of these credits; and how many hours of online service disruption there have been to the system. [126509]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the terms of the Aspire contract, service credits are administered on a quarterly basis. The Aspire contract is the contract by which information technology is provided to the Inland Revenue and its successor department, HMRC.

Capgemini assumed responsibility for the management of the Aspire contract in June 2004. The

following table shows all service credits and their value since Capgemini took over the contract.

The amounts represent a very small proportion of the annual cost of the Aspire contract and are commensurate with the low-level technological problems that are typically experienced in a service delivery of this size, complexity and value.

It is very difficult to make comparisons with other public IT contracts where details are available due to widely differing approaches in the use of service credits and liquidated damages.

The Aspire service credit figures are proportionately larger than Capgemini experience in their other outsourcing work in the UK, reflecting the tougher contractual conditions in a second generation outsourcing contract.

Quarter	Number of service credits	Value of service credits (£)
Q3 2004	0	0
Q4 2004	4	1,504,000
Q1 2005	1	40,000
Q2 2005	2	1,082,000
Q3 2005	2	320,000
Q4 2005	4	220,000
Q1 2006	2	117,000
Q2 2006	5	868,000
Q3 2006	9	297,000
Q4 2006	3	37,000

In March 2006 HMRC paid £270,000 back to Capgemini for overpayments made by Capgemini on service credits in previous quarters.

Since Capgemini took over the tax credit IT system in June 2004 there have been 18 hours and 30 minutes of unscheduled online service disruption against a contracted time of 13,962 hours and 30 minutes. This represents 0.1 per cent. of unscheduled online service disruption. Of these 18 hours and 30 minutes, 15 hours and 45 minutes fell in the first year. In calendar year 2006 no hours were lost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new IT releases there have been to the tax credit system in each month since the contract transferred to Capgemini. [126510]

Dawn Primarolo: Capgemini assumed responsibility for the management of the Aspire contract in June 2004. The Aspire contract is the contract by which information technology is provided to the Inland Revenue and its successor department, HMRC.

Since June 2004 there have been new IT releases to the tax credit system in September 2004, April 2005, November 2005, April 2006 and October 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid to Capgemini for running the IT tax credits system, exclusive of VAT. [126511]

Dawn Primarolo: The amount paid to Capgemini in respect of IT service charges for running the tax credits system during the period from July 2004 to January 2007 is £64 million, exclusive of VAT.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many legal actions were instigated against tax credit claimants in respect of overpayments in each month of the last two years for which figures are available; and in how many cases in each month the claimant was continuing to dispute the claim. [129024]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the monthly basis requested is not readily available and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Before instigating legal proceedings HMRC make a number of attempts (by telephone and a personal visit) to contact the customer. They also check to see if there is any existing dispute about the overpayment before commencing legal action. Where the issue of a court summons produces a defence claiming that the overpayment is in dispute proceedings are suspended until the claim is resolved.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the contribution of official error in determining the level of write-offs of disputed overpayments of tax credits in 2005-06 and 2006-07; [129157]

(2) what assessment he has made of the reasons for the difference in the amounts written off for disputed overpayments of tax credits in 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06. [129158]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the oral evidence given before the Treasury Committee on 14 March 2007.

Welfare Tax Credits: Personation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants have disputed their payment on the grounds that their identity has been stolen and a fraudulent claim has been made on their behalf. [128540]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The information requested is not available but where a customer does contact HMRC to report possible abuse this is acted upon by the Department to stop any incorrect payments and prevent any further distress to the genuine claimant by correcting the claim as quickly as possible.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 28 March 2007

TRANSPORT

A628

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors he took into consideration when authorising the budget increase for the A628 Mottram Tintwistle bypass; what the main reasons were for agreeing to the increase; and upon what date he agreed to the increases. [130424]

Dr. Ladyman: I took account of a number of factors in agreeing to an increase in the approved cost estimate for this scheme. In particular, I noted that important causes of the cost increase were, firstly, the decision, arising from the North West's advice on priorities for major transport schemes, to slip the proposed start date of this scheme to 2012-13; secondly, the use of more realistic forecasts of construction inflation up to the scheme's new start date; and thirdly, the inclusion of additional works to restrain the amount of traffic passing through the Peak District National Park following the construction of the scheme. I also took account of all the impacts, including the benefits that the scheme will provide. These include relieving the communities of Mottram, Hollingworth and Tintwistle of high volumes of through traffic and providing improved journey times for travellers. In the light of the overall balance of costs and benefits I decided that it was appropriate to agree the increase.

I took this decision on 30 January 2007. However, I recognise that at the higher cost estimate this scheme represents an additional pressure on the funding allocation for major schemes in the North West region. Officials will be discussing this with the North West region shortly and I will take account of any views that they may wish to offer on the provision of funding and timing of delivery of this scheme in the light of the higher cost.

A69: Greenhead

Mr. Gregan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date he paid £103,974.92 to the account of Brims and Company Ltd., mentioned at item 5 in the third interim award of 16 October 1998 in the Greenhead A69 diversion arbitration. [129038]

Dr. Ladyman: Brims and Company Ltd. were contractors working on the A69 Greenhead diversion scheme. The company went into receivership in 1990. Receivers were appointed and an arbitration was brought against the Secretary of State. A settlement figure was agreed and ratified by the arbitrator in November 2002. This was a full and final settlement and explicitly included the payment of interest and costs. The agreed settlement figure was paid to Brims and Company Ltd. shortly thereafter. The settlement was enshrined in a consent award which attracts the confidentiality which is implicit in the arbitration process. The confidence is owed to the administrative receiver of Brims and Company Ltd.

Official Cars

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Ministers were entitled to the services of an official Government car in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130284]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is responsible for providing ministerial transport in line with the Ministerial Code and the Prime Minister's guidance 'Travel by Ministers'.

All serving Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State since 1997 were entitled to an official Government car.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Ministers with an entitlement to an official Government car have chosen to be driven in *(a)* a Jaguar and *(b)* a Toyota Prius. [130285]

Dr. Ladyman: Guidance on the use and provision of government cars is set out in Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code. It is for individual Ministers to account for their travel arrangements.

Railway Stations

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* rail and *(b)* tram stations there are in England and Wales; and *(c)* how many bus stations there are in England. [129161]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information is as follows.

(a) The Network Rail's Annual Return to the Office of Rail Regulation published 1 August 2006 shows that there were 2,167 stations in England and Wales.

(b) There are 391 tram stops in England, although currently no light rail systems in Wales (excluding those, such as the Great Orme Tramway, which is operated primarily as a tourist attraction and not as a transit system). There is no distinction in this figure between a tram stop and a tram station. These figures do not include MerseyRail or the London Underground, which are considered "heavy" rail, but does include the Docklands Light Railway.

(c) Unfortunately, we are unable to provide the number of bus stations in England. We do not define bus stations in our data as there is no clear definition as to what a bus station is i.e. at what point are bus stops clustered close enough in order to call it a bus station. Therefore, we only recognise individual bus stops. The number of bus stops available relates to Great Britain only, as it is extremely hard to count bus stops for individual countries. There are currently 361,745 active bus/coach stops in Great Britain as a whole.

Railways: Electric Cables

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of cable theft on the railways; [130397]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of cable theft on the railways. [130398]

Mr. Tom Harris: The British Transport Police are well aware of the seriousness of cable theft and, working with Network Rail, have initiated a wide range of measures to address the problem.

The effects of cable theft on the railways is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and

operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to her question.

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Freight

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has undertaken any research on the impact of railfreight interchanges on reducing the number of heavy goods vehicles movements and carbon dioxide emissions. [130478]

Mr. Tom Harris: Each railfreight interchange is unique to its specific location and the impact it has on heavy goods traffic is therefore particular to that individual site. Because of this it has not been possible to produce generic modelling on heavy goods vehicle movements at railfreight interchanges.

Roads: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much capital has been allocated by local authorities to new road projects in Halifax since 1997. [130406]

Gillian Merron: Figures for the Halifax constituency are not specifically available. The following table sets out how much capital spending on integrated transport improvements has been reported by Calderdale metropolitan borough council (which includes Halifax) to my Department from 1997-98 to 2005-06.

	Amount (£000)
1997-98	1,002
1998-99	1,333
1999-2000	873
2000-01	1,810
2001-02	2,041
2002-03	2,263
2003-04	2,967
2004-05	2,799
2005-06	1,700

Integrated transport improvements are new road and local public transport related projects. The totals exclude investment made in the area by West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority, as this is primarily related to public transport.

South West Trains: Fares

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the proposal by South West Trains to increase *(a)* off-peak, *(b)* super off-peak and *(c)* first class fares; and if he will make a statement. [130416]

Mr. Tom Harris: These fares are unregulated and therefore Stagecoach need not seek the approval of the Department. Unregulated fares are for train operators to set at their discretion.

The Department has received three letters on the subject.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there are in Halifax constituency. [130403]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not hold this information, but does have the information for the area covered by the West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership, analysed by local authority. The details are shown in the following table.

Local authority	*Number*
Calderdale MBC	20
City of Bradford MDC	26
City of Wakefield MDC	13
Kirklees	13
Leeds CC	15
Grand total	87

Vehicle Emissions

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to arrange flexibility of implementation for a Europe-wide agreement on exhaust emissions to allow UK-based car manufacturers to respond fully and positively whilst maintaining their manufacturing operations; and if he will make a statement. [129845]

Dr. Ladyman: Following the European Commission's announcement of its intention to legislate on new car fuel efficiency, the Government intend to hold a consultation with stakeholders to ensure that impacts are fully assessed, including issues of flexibility and cost-effectiveness, before a final legislative proposal is produced.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128064]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Office does not record separate figures for campaigns by television, radio and print. Figures for 1999-2000 are not available; the Office spent the following on advertising:

	£
2000-01	270,694
2001-02	186,564
2002-03	10,390
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0

Most of the expenditure in 2000-01 and 2001-02 relates to electoral registration matters; since 2001, this has been the responsibility of the Electoral Commission.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)*

sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic of each was. [129949]

David Cairns: Nothing.

Devolution: Scotland

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent devolution issues the Advocate General has considered. [129054]

David Cairns: Since 24 February, 43 devolution issues have been intimated to the Advocate-General. Of these 43 devolution issues, 14 related to civil proceedings and 29 related to criminal proceedings.

Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how he expects the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 to be implemented in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [129096]

David Cairns: The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 extend to Scotland and I would expect them to be implemented in exactly the same way as in England and Wales.

Orkney

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to his answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2028W, on Orkney, how many visits were made by Scottish Office Ministers to *(a)* Orkney and *(b)* Shetland in each year from 1983 to 1999. [127331]

David Cairns: I regret that this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent *(a)* representations he has received on and *(b)* assessment he has made of the reliability of .50 ammunition for the heavy machine gun used by UK troops in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [129324]

Mr. Ingram: We are experiencing no performance problems with any ammunition and a rigorous testing system is in place to assure this.

Reports of stoppages on the 0.5 calibre heavy machine gun were received from Afghanistan last year. Comprehensive technical investigations confirmed that the cause was a weapons system problem, not the ammunition, which was quickly resolved.

In an unrelated investigation, some ammunition was found to have substandard links, which were causing wear to feeding blocks. The decision was swiftly taken to withdraw all of this ammunition from theatre, and the stock was replaced.

The weapon system, including its ammunition is currently operating efficiently in all theatres of operation.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reason Eurofighter aircraft are being deployed in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement; [129472]

(2) when he expects Eurofighters to be deployed in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [129473]

Des Browne: There are no plans to deploy Eurofighter aircraft to Afghanistan.

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which RAF bases *(a)* have been closed since 1997 and *(b)* are due to be closed. [119256]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member with information on the number of RAF bases that have been closed since 1997.

The following RAF bases have been announced as currently scheduled for closure:

RAF Bentley Priory
RAF Brampton
RAF Innsworth
RAF Lyneham
RAF Uxbridge

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the reasons for the fuel leaks on the Hercules aircraft after they have been fitted with suppressant foam; and if he will make a statement. [129352]

Mr. Ingram: We are currently collating and evaluating data in connection with the fuel leaks that have occurred on some Hercules aircraft fitted with explosion suppressant foam. This work is being undertaken by a joint MOD/industry team.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 205W, on Hercules aircraft, whether the Fit For Purpose Hercules aircraft available to the Front Line Command provided by The Hercules Integrated Operational Support contract includes *(a)* explosive suppressant foam and *(b)* defensive aids suite; and if he will make a statement. [129706]

Mr. Ingram: All of the RAF's Hercules aircraft are maintained under the Hercules Integrated Operational Support contract. I am withholding the number of aircraft that are equipped with explosion suppressant foam and defensive aid systems as its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Hospital Ships

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to order the

two hospital ships recommended in the 1998 strategic defence review. [128582]

Mr. Ingram: It is planned that the Maritime Role Three Medical Capability programme, previously called the Joint Casualty Treatment Ship, will address the capability referred to in the strategic defence review.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* information and *(b)* evidence informed the decision to procure the new Lynx helicopter; and if he will place in the Library copies of such material. [129446]

Mr. Ingram: The decision to procure the new Lynx helicopter was informed by the Main Gate Business Case submitted to the Investment Approvals Board supported by a broad range of supporting evidence. This provided information and evidence about the required military capability, affordability, value for money and coherency with the defence industrial strategy.

I am withholding further information on the business case as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Navy: Lynx Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Royal Navy's fleet air arm, with particular reference to the Lynx Mk7 Attack Helicopter; and whether he plans to replace the existing Lynx Mk7 with a more modern helicopter. [129734]

Mr. Ingram: 847 Naval Air Squadron at RNAS Yeovilton is the only Fleet Air Arm unit to operate the Lynx Mk7. The Joint Service Future Lynx programme to replace the Lynx Mk7 helicopters of the Fleet Air Arm and the Army with the new Battlefield Reconnaissance Helicopter has a projected in service date of 2013.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: Opinion Polls

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what public opinion polls his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the United Kingdom's obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. [130370]

Des Browne: The Department has neither commissioned nor evaluated any opinion polls concerning the UK's obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We are aware of our obligations under this treaty and continue to meet them in full.

Trident Missiles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of the Mk4A Arming, Fusing and Firing system on the *(a)* ability to accurately adjust the height of burst of the Trident warhead and *(b)* probability that the Trident warhead will be effective against hardened targets. [129539]

Des Browne: The MK4A Arming, Fusing and Firing system is a non-nuclear component being introduced into the UK Trident warhead to replace a similar component which is becoming obsolete. This is necessary to ensure that we can keep the existing warhead in service in the 2020s. I am not prepared to discuss the detailed performance characteristics of our nuclear weapons.

PRIME MINISTER

E-petitions

David Maclean: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost is of providing administrative support services to the e-petition facility on the Downing street website. [129867]

The Prime Minister: Since it is potentially part of the work of all those involved in e-petitions and handling correspondence in my office, information on the cost of administrative support services in not available in the format requested.

Prime Minister: Speeches

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Prime Minister what the names and job titles were of those invited to his speech on the arts at Tate Modern on 6 March 2007. [129534]

The Prime Minister: This is a matter for Tate Modern.

Sudan: Sanctions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Prime Minister what sanctions he is proposing should be imposed upon the Sudanese government following his letter to Chancellor Merkel. [130248]

The Prime Minister: The UK has proposed further targeted sanctions against those responsible for atrocities in Darfur, and an extension of the arms embargo to the whole of Sudan. I wrote to EU leaders on 21 March to make the case for this, and Chancellor Merkel and I raised sanctions with EU colleagues at the 25 March Informal Summit. We are now taking forward a UN Security Council Resolution in New York.

The situation in Darfur remains appalling. There are continued attacks on civilians, peacekeepers and the humanitarian agencies. The arms embargo on Darfur continues to be violated. No side is making a serious effort to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict. President Bashir has repeatedly gone back on his government's commitments, in particular with regard to the UN support for African Union peacekeepers and the rapid deployment of a hybrid/ UN force.

Visits Abroad: Expenditure

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions a special adviser accompanied him on

official business abroad; and at what cost to the public purse in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130292]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. The number of officials, including special advisers, accompanying Ministers on visits overseas and the total cost of each visit is included in the list.

All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the 'Ministerial Code', and the accompanying guidance document, 'Travel by Ministers'.

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions his wife accompanied him on official business abroad at the public expense, and at what cost, in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130293]

The Prime Minister: My wife accompanies me on official visits overseas as appropriate. The costs of official visits are included in the annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more. Since 2005, the details of the visits where I have been accompanied by my wife have also been included in the annual list. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

British Aid

7. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the relative effectiveness of British aid provided through the independent sector, through the EU and bilaterally. [130166]

Hilary Benn: Our assessment is that, to maximise the benefits to poor people, it makes sense to give our aid in different ways, depending on the circumstances.

DFID's bi-lateral aid, given directly to governments or through NGOs and the UN, helps provide essential services. We also support NGOs to help citizens hold their governments to account.

Aid given through the European Commission and the World Bank enables us to reach a larger number of countries and people.

Zimbabwe: Aid Distribution

8. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the involvement of the government of Zimbabwe in the distribution of aid from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the UN. [130167]

Hilary Benn: None of the UK's humanitarian or food aid goes through the government of Zimbabwe; it is all distributed through the UN and non-governmental organisations. As donors, we will not tolerate the politicisation of aid, and we suspend projects if we need to. The UK funds a local civil society organisation to monitor food aid distribution, and works with humanitarian partners to ensure the most vulnerable people are reached.

Micro-credit Fund: Africa

9. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to support the German proposal to create a microcredit fund for African entrepreneurs at the forthcoming G8 summit. [130168]

Mr. Thomas: We are working closely with our G8 partners to agree concrete proposals to expand access to financial services in Africa. We support the 'Making Finance Work for Africa' initiative proposed by the German Presidency and the World Bank.

We are waiting for further more specific details of the regional micro credit fund proposal.

Reproductive Health

10. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth in developing countries. [130169]

Mr. Thomas: DFID set out its priorities for action to "improve maternal health" in our 2004 strategy 'Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action'. This strategy guides DFID's approach to helping developing countries to improve the availability of and access to life saving services for pregnant women. For example in Nigeria DFID has a £55 million programme of support for health system strengthening with a focus on maternal health. In Ekiti state this support has resulted in a 100 per cent. increase in the number of women who are cared for by a health professional during childbirth.

Latin America: Aid

11. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding he has allocated as aid for Latin American countries in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [130170]

Mr. Thomas: DFID currently has plans to allocate £8 million in 2007-08 to the Latin American regional programme, and £4 million to the bilateral programme in Nicaragua. Decisions about funding allocations to Latin American countries from 2008-09 will be taken in the context of the comprehensive spending review.

Maternal Health Progress Report

12. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish the Maternal Health Progress Report. [130171]

Mr. Thomas: The 2nd Annual Progress Report on Maternal Health is due to be published in April 2007.

Anti-corruption Standards

13. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the efforts of the international aid agencies to promote anti-corruption standards in developing country programmes. [130173]

Hilary Benn: In promoting anti-corruption standards in partner countries it is very important that international agencies ensure a consistent message on corruption. We do this by assessing and influencing the approaches of other agencies. Recently we have been involved with; the World Bank process to develop a Governance and Anti-Corruption Framework and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee to formulate common approaches to corruption in partner countries. This initiative included a joint mission to Cameroon to enable agencies to assess each other's approaches to addressing corruption; and other bilateral donors on implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption.

Zimbabwe

14. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to increase the delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of Zimbabwe. [130174]

Hilary Benn: DFID spent £33 million in 2006-07 to tackle food insecurity and HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe, through United Nations agencies and non governmental organisations. DFID has provided £3 million to support the World Food Programme; and committed £30 million to help over a million vulnerable people through longer-term NGO initiatives. DFID is providing £5 million to the International Organisation for Migration to help internally displaced people. Our health programmes will supply antiretroviral drugs to 30,000 people and save the lives of mothers and newborn babies. We are monitoring the situation closely, and stand ready to contribute more resources if humanitarian needs increase significantly.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value is of humanitarian aid provided by his Department to Afghanistan in the 2006-07 financial year to date. [129490]

Hilary Benn: The UK has committed the following humanitarian aid to Afghanistan in this financial year to date: £1 million for drought mitigation; £1.2 million to support HALO Trust's de-mining programme; and £30,000 to provide food and other essential items like soap and blankets for 3,000 internally displaced families in Helmand.

Final expenditure data for 2006-07 are not yet available. Provisional data will be released in June, prior to final estimates being published in statistics on international development in October. Data for the five years to 2005-06 were published in table 12.3 of the latest edition of "Statistics on International Development 2001-02 to 2005-06", copies of which are available in the Library. The figure for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan in 2005-06 was £3.39 million.

Africa: Drugs

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking to limit the spread of counterfeit drugs and medicines in Africa. [129420]

Mr. Thomas: DFID supports the World Health Organisation (WHO), through its core funding, in its efforts to help African countries strengthen their pharmaceutical legislation, good manufacturing practices, national drug regulatory capacity and performance. The WHO also promotes information exchange among drug regulatory authorities to help combat drug counterfeiters.

The UK Government are working closely with developed and developing country governments, international institutions such as the World Health Organisation, non government organisations and the private sector to develop the Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) to build support for transparency in medicines procurement and supply to help to drive out counterfeiting as well as corruption, excessive mark-ups and inefficiencies. We expect to launch MeTA in a number of pilot countries in mid 2007.

DFID has provided support to Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control which has taken an active lead in reducing counterfeit drugs throughout the country.

Africa: Family Planning

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if the Government will take steps to encourage member states of the African Union to implement the Maputo plan of action on allocation of resources for sexual reproductive health services, maternal health care and contraception. [129594]

Hilary Benn: DFID fully supports the aims of the African Union Maputo plan of action on maternal health which is consistent with the DFID strategy 'Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action'. DFID will continue to work with and encourage partner governments to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services and commodities through DFID funded country programmes, and through regional and global advocacy.

At regional level, DFID works closely with the African Union Commission and other regional partners responsible for the Maputo plan and will continue to do so.

At country level, DFID will continue to work closely with national governments. In Nigeria, DFID has a £55 million programme of support for health system strengthening with a focus on maternal health. The programme works closely with state and federal health ministries and in Ekiti state this support has resulted in a 100 per cent. increase in the number of women who are cared for by a health professional during childbirth. In Burundi, DFID is supporting the Ministry of Health to implement a free health care

policy for pregnant women and children under five. In Sierra Leone DFID is developing a 10-year £50 million programme with the Ministries of Health and Finance specifically to improve sexual, reproductive and child health. In Zimbabwe DFID will invest £25 million pounds over five years to improve maternal and newborn health. The project will reduce the number of maternal deaths and reduce the number of children becoming infected or dying from HIV infection.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in encouraging partner governments to improve access to maternal health care and contraception services so as to reduce the levels of maternal mortality encountered in regions including sub-Saharan Africa. [129610]

Hilary Benn: As set out in DFID's strategy 'Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action', DFID continues to work with partner governments to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services and commodities through DFID funded country programmes, and through regional and global advocacy. Increasingly DFID supports nationally led programmes for essential health services through budget support, as well as specific programmes for improving maternal and child health. For example, in Malawi and Uganda DFID works with national partners to strengthen health services, particularly human resources for health, and is pressing for the expansion of evidence-based sexual and reproductive services.

While reducing maternal mortality remains a major challenge, progress is being made. In Nigeria, DFID has a £55 million programme of support for health system strengthening with a focus on maternal health. The programme works closely with state and federal health ministries. In Ekiti state this support has resulted in a 100 per cent. increase in the number of women who are cared for by a health professional during childbirth. In Kenya a regional safe motherhood programme supported overall health system strengthening and was used to argue for more support to maternal and child health within essential health services programme. In Burundi, DFID is supporting the Ministry of Health to implement a free health care policy for pregnant women and children under five. In Sierra Leone, DFID is developing a 10 year, £50 million programme with the Ministries of Health and Finance specifically to improve sexual, reproductive and child health. The programme will strengthen the health system as a whole and address human resources for health, supplies of commodities, policy planning and financing. It will also contribute towards reducing key social, cultural and economic barriers to accessing basic health services.

Bolivia: Floods

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support he plans to allocate to deal with problems caused by floods in Bolivia. [130059]

Mr. Thomas: The EC Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) is providing €1 million emergency funds for flood victims in Bolivia. DFID contributes to this through its 18 per cent. share of the European Community's external assistance programme. Beyond that, DFID's Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department's assessment is that the urgent humanitarian needs have been met by other donors. In view of this, DFID does not plan to provide further direct financial support.

EC Grants and Loans

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which countries *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his Department has committed funds under European Development Fund 10. [125536]

Mr. Thomas: The 10th European Development Fund (EDF10) will provide €22.7 billion (£15.3 billion) for development, economic and trade co-operation for the period 2008 to 2013 to 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific. The UK contribution to EDF10 will be 14.82 per cent. EDF10 will become operational from 1 January 2008.

Countries eligible for EDF10 funding are as follows.

Africa

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo (Brazzaville)
Congo (Kinshasa)
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan

Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Grenada
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago

Pacific

Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Fiji
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Nauru
Niue
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

Overseas Countries and Territories

Anguilla
Cayman Islands
Falkland Islands
South Georgia
South Sandwich Islands
Montserrat
Pitcairn
Saint Helena and dependencies
British Antarctic Territories
British Indian Ocean Territories
Turks and Caicos Islands
British Virgin Islands
Mayotte
New Caledonia
French Polynesia
Saint Pierre and Miquelon
Southern and Antarctic Territories
Wallis and Futuna Islands
Aruba
Dutch Antilles (Curasso, Bonaire, Saint Maarten, Saint Eustache and Saba)
Greenland

Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was allocated to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in each calendar year since 2002. [130233]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has allocated £359 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria from 2002 to 2007 as follows:

Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria—DFID spend 2000-06

	£ million
2002	50
2003	25
2004	33
2005	51
2006	100
2007	100
Total	359

DFID's commitment of £100 million for 2007 is subject to performance.

Guinea

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Guinea. [129607]

Hilary Benn: The UK has been concerned by the unrest and political instability in Guinea arising from the general strike earlier this year, and has supported the efforts of ECOWAS and regional leaders in helping mediate during the crisis.

The situation has calmed with the lifting of martial law on 23 February, the ending of the strike, and the appointment of Lansana Kouyate as Prime Minister. We hope that he will soon appoint a new, broadly-based and consensus government which will work to move Guinea forward. But the recent crisis has brought the already devastated economy to a near standstill. It has severely affected the provision of health and other public services and the population's access to them. Food supplies have been disrupted, with the price of staples such as rice, flour, sugar and vegetables, as well as fuel, increasing sharply.

DFID is monitoring the humanitarian situation, and is in contact with international partners and agencies based in Guinea. In response to the crisis and the increased humanitarian risks, we have agreed to provide £350,000 through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to be focused on meeting urgent medical and nutritional needs, and to maintain preparedness in case of further civil unrest with humanitarian consequences.

DFID has also recently agreed to provide £270,000 to the World Food programme humanitarian air service for West Africa, which facilitates the movement of humanitarian personnel and urgently needed non-food items between Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The air service recently demonstrated its importance during the civil unrest in Guinea, allowing agencies to respond and facilitate security evacuations.

India

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many departmental staff are located in India; and where they are located. [129930]

Mr. Thomas: DFID India has total 117 staff. Of these, 21 are UK based Home civil servants and 96 are

staff appointed in country. DFID India has offices in Delhi (Headquarters), Bhubaneshwar (Orissa), Kolkata (West Bengal), and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). Of the current total, 107 staff are based in New Delhi, four staff in Bhopal and three each in Kolkata and Bhubaneshwar.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of India's progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. [129952]

Mr. Thomas: DFID India regularly assesses progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in India. These assessments are based on official Government of India statistics, but take into account concerns over the quality of data and independent assessments where appropriate.

Sources for recent assessments of progress in India include the Government of India's 11th Five year plan approach paper, the Government of India's Millennium Development Goals India Country Report, and the United Nations and World Bank database of progress indicators for Millennium Development Goals.

A summary of results is available on the World Bank website at:

http://ddpext.worldbank.org/ext/ddpreports/ViewSharedReport?REPORTID=1336&REQUEST_TYPE=VIEWADVANCED

Malaria: Drugs

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the rollout of the new fixed-dose combination drug artesunate and amodiaquine (ASAQ) in tackling malaria in *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Asia and *(c)* Latin America. [129356]

Mr. Thomas: The new fixed-dose combination drug artesunate and amodiaquine (ASAQ) was launched on 1 March 2007 and it is too early to assess the rollout. Although countries can buy the drug now, most will wait until it passes through the World Health Organisation (WHO) pre-qualification process. After this the drug can be procured through international drug purchasing facilities, such as the global fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The drugs for neglected diseases initiative (DNDi) will monitor all aspects of the rollout to ensure that the drug is taken up by countries and delivered to patients. ASAQ has been produced in partnership with the pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Aventis who have extensive distribution networks in Africa. Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) are recommended by WHO for the treatment of malaria, and ASAQ is an ACT recommended first line treatment in 20 African countries. Because of this and the fact that ASAQ is easier to use and less expensive than existing ACT drugs, DNDi expects quick take up by countries.

ASAQ can only be used where there is no pre-existing resistance to amodiaquine, so it is most relevant for use in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the 20 countries where it is already recommended for first line treatment. It is less likely to be used in Asia (although it may be used in parts of India and Indonesia) and Latin America.

Overseas Aid

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to promote the independent evaluation of British aid. [130172]

Hilary Benn: UK aid is subject to external scrutiny through independent monitoring (by the IDC), audit (by the NAO) and peer review (by the OECD). DFID's policies and country programmes are evaluated by external experts and findings are published.

However we can go further: I intend to establish a mechanism to ensure more independent evaluation of DFID's impact and I will inform the House of my proposals in due course.

Palestinians: EC Aid

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many projects have been cancelled or suspended in the Palestinian authority area since the European Commission's decision of 7 April 2006 to stop funds being transferred to that authority, broken down by type of project; and how the funds being withheld are being treated. [128994]

Hilary Benn: Since the election of the Hamas-led Palestinian authority (PA), ten European Commission (EC) projects have been suspended. These are:

1. Health sector support programme
2. Support to tax administration in Ministry of Finance
3. Support to customs administration in the Ministry of Finance
4. Infrastructure for judiciary sector
5. Vocational education and training facilities centre
6. Nablus old city renovation
7. Schools construction
8. Gaza airport
9. Infrastructure facility for Ministry of Finance (apart from activities directly managed by the EC)
10. Support to the energy and transport sectors

Not all of these projects were suspended as a result of the Hamas-led Government's failure to meet the quartet principles. For example, the Gaza airport project was very unlikely to move forward during 2006, regardless of Palestinian political developments. The EC re-designed some projects in order to achieve the same results without channelling funds through the PA. Funds for other projects remain available for when the EC restarts business with the PA.

The EC re-designed its 2006 programme in order to deliver support to the Palestinian people without channelling funding through the Hamas-led Government. This did not result in significant amounts of funding being blocked or suspended. In fact, the EC spent €348 million in 2006, compared to €277 million in 2005. This included support to: the temporary international mechanism; the Office of the Palestinian president; local and international non-governmental organisations; projects implemented by international organisations (such as the World Bank, and UNESCO); and humanitarian assistance delivered by the European Community

Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* technical assistance, *(b)* budgetary support and *(c)* humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian authority has been suspended by the (i) EU and (ii) UK following the election of the Hamas Government. [128995]

Hilary Benn: Following the election of the Hamas-led Government, the European Union (EU) has suspended a number of technical assistance projects. A breakdown of specific projects from all member states is not available. Ten European Commission (EC) projects have been suspended, though some of these might have been suspended regardless of Palestinian political developments. The EC re-designed some projects in order to achieve the same results without channelling funds through the Palestinian authority (PA). No new budget support agreement was put into place (though budget support was not technically suspended). EU (EC and member states) humanitarian assistance commitments were €165 million in 2006, more than double the 2005 figure. Overall, EU assistance increased by 27 per cent. in 2006 to £442 million, including £123 million for Palestinian basic needs through the temporary international mechanism. This compares to £42 million which the EU gave in budget support to the PA in 2005.

DFID has re-oriented its technical assistance to comply with the quartet statement of 30 January. The only UK-led project that has been suspended is a planned project covering hydrometric monitoring to the Palestinian water authority (PWA) worth £431,000. No new budget support agreement was put into place. In 2005-06 (prior to the election of Hamas) DFID provided £10 million in budget support to the PA. DFID humanitarian assistance has remained unaffected. The UK maintained the same level of support (£30 million) in 2006-07 as in 2005-06, and will increase this slightly to £30.6 million for 2007-08.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Admissions: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will rank London education authorities by *(a)* the (i) number and (ii) percentage of admission appeals lodged relating to secondary transfer and *(b)* the (A) number and (B) percentage of such appeals that were successful. [118465]

Jim Knight: This information is not collected in the form requested. A table giving details of appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to their preferred school in 2004/05 can be found at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000656/SFR20-2006.pdf

This provides data on all appeals made for any primary or secondary school year group at any point in the school year, including secondary transfer.

Adoption: Catholic Church

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are being managed by Catholic adoption agencies. [129875]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children who are currently being managed by Catholic adoption agencies is not collected by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

After School Clubs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether staff and volunteers from outside a school who run breakfast or after-school clubs are required to have undertaken training on how to tackle bullying. [126566]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* There is no specific requirement for staff and volunteers from outside a school to have training in relation to bullying, although we would expect those who operate extended school schemes to be equipped with the necessary skills to tackle it when it occurs.

Trainee teachers receive training in tackling bullying and there is a wide range of courses available for qualified teachers. We supplement this training with guidance and advice designed to address the specific needs which school staff have in this area, for example, with regards to tackling prejudice-driven bullying. We are also currently revising our over-arching guidance to schools 'Don't Suffer in Silence' to ensure that schools have practical advice on how successfully to address and prevent bullying when it occurs.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether schools' anti-bullying policies are required to cover activities on school property which occur outside regular school hours. [126567]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 March 2007]:* While there is not a specific legal requirement for school anti-bullying policies to cover activities that take place outside of regular school hours, there is a duty on schools to tackle all forms of bullying and so we would expect school policies to be couched in sufficiently broad terms that bullying on school premises outside school hours would be covered. The guidance to accompany the school discipline provisions in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, 'School Discipline and Pupil Behaviour Policies', will make clear that the Government believe extended school activities, sports events and breakfast/after-school clubs should be covered by the school behaviour policy and that schools should apply disciplinary penalties for poor behaviour (including bullying) that occurs at such activities.

Work has also been undertaken at local level to deal specifically with bullying in extended schools. In some schools, work funded by Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) has helped to identify children and young people at risk of being bullied, or of bullying others, and provides positive diversionary activities out of school hours and during school holidays. There is

also evidence to suggest that the provision of extended services by schools may, in itself, help to counter bullying. In particular, we know that on-site provision of family and community services can have a positive impact on pupil behaviour and attendance generally. Part of the Behaviour Improvement Programme included the development of 'full service' extended schools, and the 'core offer' of extended services which we want all schools to provide by 2010 includes services of direct relevance to issues around bullying such as parenting support and easy access to a wide range of specialist support services.

Aldridge Foundation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether payments from the public purse have been made to the Aldridge Foundation in the last 12 months. [129328]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Education and Skills has not allocated any public funding for further education or schools to the Aldridge Foundation in the last 12 months.

Bishops Park College

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1818W, on Bishops Park College, what the *(a)* staying on rate, *(b)* number of exclusions, *(c)* number of teenage pregnancies and *(d)* level of parental satisfaction were at the College in each year since 2002. [124800]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows.

(a) Bishops Park College does not have a sixth form. The Department does not currently produce school level staying on rates.

(b) Bishops Park College has reported no permanent exclusions since its opening in September 2002. The first year for which information on fixed period exclusions is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. No fixed period exclusions from Bishops Park College were reported for 2003/04. There were 57 fixed period exclusions during the 2004/05 academic year.

(c) The Department does not collect information on teenage conceptions by school.

(d) The Department does not collect data on parental satisfaction in individual schools.

Building Schools for the Future

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether all types of schools can be granted building schools for the future funding. [111585]

Jim Knight: All types of secondary school are eligible for capital investment under building schools for the future, where they need it. This includes: community (including voluntary controlled), voluntary aided and foundation (including trust) schools; academies and city technology colleges; 11-16 and 11-18 secondary schools, and middle-deemed secondary and upper schools; the secondary part of all-through (primary and secondary) schools; sixth form centres established under school regulations; secondary and all-age special schools and pupil referral units; non-maintained special schools and music and dance schools where the majority of pupils are publicly funded; and boarding facilities in maintained secondary schools.

Children's Centres

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children's centres within each local authority have been *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in the last 12 months. [130307]

Beverley Hughes: 500 Sure Start Children's Centres have been designated/opened in the last 12 months (23 March 2006 to 23 March 2007). This is broken down by each local authority. We have not received any reports of closures.

Local Authority	*Number of designated children's centres 23 March 2006 to 23 March 2007*
Barking and Dagenham	4
Barnet	1
Barnsley	3
Bath and North East Somerset	2
Bexley	1
Birmingham	16
Blackburn with Darwen	3
Blackpool	1
Bolton	1
Bradford	10
Brent	3
Brighton and Hove	2
Bromley	3
Buckinghamshire	7
Bury	1
Calderdale	4
Cambridgeshire	2
Camden	1
Cheshire	5
Cornwall	4
Coventry	6
Croydon	3
Cumbria	6
Derby, City of	5
Derbyshire	13
Devon	5
Doncaster	5
Dorset	12
Dudley	3
Durham	22
Ealing	6
East Sussex	5
Enfield	5
Essex	5
Hackney	6
Halton	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	1
Hampshire	4
Haringey	1
Harrow	3
Havering	1
Herefordshire	2
Hillingdon	1
Hounslow	5
Islington	1
Kensington and Chelsea	2
Kent	9
Kingston upon Hull, City of	6
Kingston upon Thames	2
Kirklees	11
Lambeth	8
Lancashire	8
Leeds	3
Leicester, City of	5
Lincolnshire	6
Liverpool	6

Local Authority	Number of designated children's centres 23 March 2006 to 23 March 2007
London, City of	1
Luton	9
Manchester	5
Medway	2
Merton	1
Middlesbrough	1
Milton Keynes	2
Newcastle upon Tyne	2
Newham	2
Norfolk	8
North East Lincolnshire	3
North Lincolnshire	1
North Somerset	2
North Tyneside	3
North Yorkshire	1
Northamptonshire	4
Northumberland	9
Nottingham, City of	8
Nottinghamshire	8
Oldham	3
Oxfordshire	12
Peterborough, city of	1
Reading	1
Redcar and Cleveland	4
Richmond upon Thames	1
Rochdale	5
Rotherham	7
Salford	6
Sandwell	6
Sefton	5
Sheffield	3
Solihull	1
Somerset	2
South Tyneside	3
Southampton	9
Southend on Sea	2
Southwark	5
St. Helens	1
Staffordshire	4
Stockport	2
Stockton on Tees	1
Stoke on Trent	4
Suffolk	4
Surrey	8
Sutton	1
Swindon	4
Thurrock	3
Torbay	2
Tower Hamlets	6
Trafford	2
Wakefield	8
Walsall	6
Waltham Forest	4
Warrington	1
Warwickshire	6
West Berkshire	3
West Sussex	4
Westminster, City of	1
Wigan	3
Wiltshire	4
Wirral	5
Wokingham	1
Wolverhampton	3
Worcestershire	3
Total	500

Education: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage online learning in Coventry. [126039]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 March 2007]*: The Government's e-strategy for education and children's services seeks to ensure all learners have access to an online learning space. The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta) is responsible for leading on enabling this access, and their delivery plan for the e-strategy aims to harness technology for the overall benefit of learners and the education system. Enabling online learning where and when appropriate is just one element of the strategy's aims.

Education: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 12 to 15 year olds in Lancashire failed to reach the required standard in English and mathematics in each of the last 10 years. [125251]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Percentage of 14 year olds[1] in Lancashire LA who do not achieve Level 5, 1997-2006 (revised)

	English	Mathematics
1997	40	39
1998	32	37
1999	34	35
2000	34	32
2001	31	30
2002	29	30
2003	28	27
2004	28	25
2005	25	24
2006[2]	27	21

[1] Figures for other ages are not available
[2] Revised
Note:
Pupils who do not achieve Level 5 includes pupils who were absent and pupils disapplied/unable to access the test.

Education: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills why the figures for the total number of secondary schools where fewer than 50 per cent. of pupils achieved level 5 or above in each subject at key stage 3 published in SFR 07/2007 differs from the total number of secondary schools given in the sixth column of table 1 in SFR 38/2006. [125162]

Jim Knight: SFR 07/2007 shows progress towards the PSA target. This school level target covers all maintained mainstream schools published with key stage 3 results in the achievement and attainment tables. SFR 38/2006 contains figures collected during the school census in January 2006. The number of secondary schools given in the sixth column of table 1 includes all those open on 19 January 2006.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils who took the Key Stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science in 2006 attained each level at Key Stage 2. [125327]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils who took the Key Stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science in 2006

attained the same level or below the level they attained at Key Stage 2, broken down by those who attained (i) level 3, (ii) level 4 and (iii) level 5 at Key Stage 2. [125329]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table.

Pupils attaining level 3, level 4 or level 5[1] in the 2006 Key Stage 3 tests who attained level 3, level 4 or level 5 in the 2003 Key Stage 2 tests[2] analyzed by subject

Achievement at Key Stage 2	Number achieving same level or below at Key Stage 3[3,4]	Percentage achieving same level or below at Key Stage 3
English Level 3	19,100	19
English Level 4	37,400	13
English Level 5	27,700	18
Mathematics Level 3	10,600	9
Mathematics Level 4	15,500	6
Mathematics Level 5	2,500	2
Science Level 3	19,400	33
Science Level 4	75,900	27
Science Level 5	45,300	19

[1] Includes pupils at levels 2, 3, 4, 5, B, N at Key Stage 3.
[2] Results of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 tests, not Teacher Assessments.
[3] Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred.
[4] Number of pupils attaining level 3, level 4 or level 5 in 2006 Key Stage 3 tests and attaining level 3, level 4 or level 5 in Key Stage 2 tests expressed as a percentage of all pupils attaining level 3, level 4 or level 5 in Key Stage 2 tests.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils who attained level 4 or below in the 2006 key stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science had attained level 4 or above at key stage 2. [125332]

Jim Knight: The information can be found in the following table.

Pupils attaining level 4 or below[1] in the 2006 key stage 3 tests who attained level 4 or above in the 2003 key stage 2 tests[2] analyzed by subject.

Subject	Key stage 2 level 4 and above[3,4]	Percentage
English	38,200	9
Mathematics	15,800	4
Science	80,400	16

[1] Includes pupils at levels 2, 3, 4, B, N at key stage 3.
[2] Results of key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests, not teacher assessments.
[3] Numbers rounded to the nearest 100.
[4] Number of pupils attaining level 4 or below in 2006 key stage 3 tests and attaining level 4 or above in key stage 2 tests expressed as a percentage of all pupils attaining level 4 or above in key stage 2 tests.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils who attained level 5 or below in the 2006 key stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science had attained level 5 or above at key stage 2. [125333]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table.

Pupils attaining level 5 or below[1] in the 2006 key stage 3 tests who attained level 5 in the 2003 key stage 2 tests[2] analyzed by subject

Key stage 3 tests	Number of pupils[3,4]	Proportion of pupils
English	27,700	18
Mathematics	2,500	2
Science	45,300	19

[1] Includes pupils at levels 2, 3, 4, 5, B, N at key stage 3.
[2] Results of key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests, not teacher assessments.
[3] Numbers rounded to the nearest 100.
[4] Number of pupils attaining level 5 or below in 2006 key stage 3 tests and attaining level 5 in key stage 2 tests expressed as a percentage of all pupils attaining level 5 in key stage 2 tests.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many maintained mainstream schools there were where *(a)* at least one pupil, *(b)* more than 10 pupils and *(c)* more than 50 per cent. of 14-year-old pupils attained a lower or the same level at key stage 3 in 2006 than they had attained at key stage 2. [125334]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of maintained mainstream schools where 14-year-old pupils attained a lower or the same level at key stage 3 in 2006[1] than they had attained at key stage 2

Number of schools	English	Mathematics	Science
At least one pupil	3,065	2,889	3,083
More than 10 pupils	2,373	924	2,883
More than 50 per cent.	11	0	99

[1] Revised data

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of children in English schools were entitled to free school meals in each year from 1978-79 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [125075]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of English school pupils who are eligible for free school meals (i) in total, (ii) by region and (iii) by local education authority. [125084]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Further and Higher Education Act 1992

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he has issued on the application of *(a)* section 44 and *(b)* section 45 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 to (i) sixth form colleges and (ii) general further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [126880]

Bill Rammell: Guidance was issued on religious education and collective worship in maintained schools and sixth form colleges in the FE sector in 1994 by the then Department for Education. Copies of this guidance—"Circular number 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship"—have been placed in the House Library.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in Lancashire obtained five GCSEs at grades A* to C including mathematics and English in each of the last five years. [126146]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the table as follows:

Number and percentage of 15-year-olds obtaining 5 or more GCSEs at Grades A-C including English and Maths GCSE for the Lancashire local authority between the years 2002-06*

	Number of 15-year-olds[1] gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	Percentage of 15-year-olds[1] gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths
2006 (revised)	6,650	45.8
2005	6,313	44.5
2004	6,290	42.7
2003	5,930	42.2
2002	5,900	42.6

[1] Number of pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) in how many secondary schools less than 25 per cent. of pupils achieved *(a)* five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent and *(b)* five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics in each local education authority in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006; [119295]

(2) in how many secondary schools 70 per cent. or more pupils achieved five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent in each local education authority in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [119296]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Information Sharing

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the Information Sharing index will have the technical capacity to record biometric data. [129956]

Beverley Hughes: The technical specification for ContactPoint (previously known by the working title of Information Sharing Index) does not include the capacity to store biometric data.

ContactPoint will only hold basic identifying information about a child and contact details for parents, carers and practitioners who are providing services to a child. This will enable practitioners quickly to identify a child and to see who else is involved, making it easier to deliver more co-ordinated support.

This intention is clearly specified in section 12 of the Children Act 2004 and in the draft regulations on which we consulted between September and December 2006. Subject to the will of Parliament, we intend the regulations to be in place by the summer recess.

Mathematics: GCE A-Level

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in maintained schools achieved *(a)* an A grade and *(b)* grades A to C in further mathematics A-level in the last 12 months. [123554]

Jim Knight: 1,499 students aged 16 to 18 in maintained schools achieved grade A in GCE A level further mathematics during academic year 2005/06. 2,507 achieved grades A-C in the same year. This represents 52 per cent. and 87 per cent. of all 2005/06 further mathematics candidates respectively.

Nursery Schools: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many nursery places for three and four-year-olds there were in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in (i) 2001 and (ii) 2006. [129464]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Number of part time funded places[1] filled by three and four-year-olds, Bexley local authority—position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
Year	Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Total three-year-olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Total four-year-olds
2001	1,300	[3]910	2,210	n/a	n/a	[4,5]2,600
2006	1,100	[3]1,000	2,100	2,300	[3]310	2,600

n/a = not available

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the annual schools' census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the annual schools' census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the nursery education grant data collection exercise.
[6] For 2001, four-year-old sub-national figures from the nursery education grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the nursery education grant data collection exercise.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the early years census and the annual schools' census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the early years census and the annual schools' census.

Number of part-time funded places[1] filled by three and four-year-olds, Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency—position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
Year	Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[3]	Total three-year-olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[4]	Total four-year-olds
2006	400	360	760	880	90	960

n/a = not available
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 as appropriate.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the annual schools' census.
[4] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the early years census and the annual schools' census.
[5] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the annual schools' census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the early years census and the annual schools' census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 32/2006 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (final)" in August, which is available on the Department's website:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Parenting Orders

Caroline Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many parenting orders arising from truancy and exclusion from school were issued in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area; how many were breached; how many prosecutions were mounted against those breaching such orders; how many such prosecutions were successful; and if he will make a statement. [126144]

Jim Knight: The Department started to collect data regarding parenting contracts and orders (in cases of non-attendance and exclusions from school) from September 2004. The data are provided at local authority level and are published at: www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolattendance/otherinitiatives/Data.cfm. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

Between 1 September 2004 and 1 September 2006 local authorities reported 18,232 education-related parenting contracts agreed with parents and 932 education-related parenting orders issued.

Data are not collected centrally on the number of parenting orders that are breached or the outcome of such breaches.

Primary Education: Gender

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of those working as primary school teachers in England are *(a)* female and *(b)* male. [125864]

Jim Knight: In March 2005 16 per cent. of full-time regular qualified teachers employed in maintained nursery and primary schools were male and 84 per cent. were female. These figures are provisional and the latest information available.

Private Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were enrolled in private schools in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each local education authority area in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [126214]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average expenditure per pupil was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Westminster in 1997; and how much was allocated for 2006-07. [126441]

Jim Knight: The school based expenditure per pupil in Westminster local authority in 1997-98 was £2,587 per pupil for local authority maintained nursery and primary schools and £3,046 per pupil for local authority secondary schools. In 2006-07, the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) guaranteed unit of funding allocated to Westminster was £4,513 per pupil.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* applications there were for and *(b)* places there were at each (i) primary and (ii) secondary school in Chorley constituency in each of the last three years. [125247]

Jim Knight: The available information is provided in the table.

Information on the number of applications and school places is not collected centrally therefore information on the number of pupils on roll in primary and secondary schools has been provided.

Maintained primary and secondary schools—January each year 2004 to 2006—Chorley constituency

	Number (headcount) of pupils[1]	
	Primary schools	Secondary schools
2004	8,815	7,716
2005	8,698	7,719
2006	8,533	7,709

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

Source:
Schools' Census

Schools: Biometrics

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to determine how many schools are collecting and storing biometric data from their school children. [126224]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* The Department keeps no records of how many schools collect or store biometric data from their school children and has no plans to do so.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1480-81W, on secondary education: curriculum, what guidance he plans to issue to schools on the determination of detailed factual content for their curricula. [126008]

Jim Knight: Teachers will use their professional judgment to determine the detailed factual content for their curricula, based on the statutory programmes of study for each subject and on the non-statutory guidance developed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to support them.

Specialised Diplomas

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the level of co-ordination of 14 to 19-year-old education in local authorities in England prior to the introduction of specialised diplomas. [111480]

Jim Knight: The Diploma Gateway is the way we are assessing readiness for Diploma delivery in 2008. We have also begun to put in place a system of 14-19 Progress Checks. This will allow local authorities to assess their progress on the delivery of the 14-19 reform programme generally, including in relation to their current attainment and participation.

Sure Start

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are participating in the Sure Start programme in Tamworth constituency. [129993]

Beverley Hughes: There are three Sure Start children's centres operational in the Tamworth constituency—Glascote, Exley and Tamworth Early Years. Figures for the number of children participating in Sure Start are not collected centrally. There are approximately 3,400 children under five living in the areas served by those centres with the opportunity to access integrated Sure Start services.

Teachers: Misconduct

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers were referred to the General Teaching Council for England for unacceptable professional misconduct under section 1 of the Code of Conduct for Registered Teachers in each of the last five years; and how many were referred under each subsection of the code. [126494]

Jim Knight: Figures obtained from the General Teaching Council for England of the number of teachers referred under Section 1 of the Code of Conduct for Registered Teachers (unacceptable professional conduct) in each of the last five financial years, are shown in the following table.

	Conduct referrals
2002/03	49
2003/04	64
2004/05	100
2005/06	91
2006/07 (to 31 January 2007)	117
Total	421

The General Teaching Council for England does not break down how many were referred for consideration under each subsection of the Code. However, it does publish an Annual Report on its registration and regulation activity, which from 2003 onwards has included an analysis of instances where there were findings of unacceptable professional conduct by category. This analysis for the years 2001/03 (two financial years together), 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 is as follows.

	Instances			
	2001/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Inappropriate language and/or inappropriate conduct in respect of pupils	5	2	4	13
Actions which undermine the school and/or parents	2	3	25	20
Misconduct relating to management and administration of exams	2	4	9	23
Fraud and financial impropriety	2	10	8	15
Misrepresentation of qualifications and other matters	1	2	4	10
Misconduct relating to contractual matters	1	1	5	15
Misconduct outside the workplace including criminal convictions	1	6	7	23
Totals	14	28	62	125

Truancy: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Lancashire pupils had *(a)* one and *(b)* more than 10 unauthorised absence from school in each of the last five years. [125246]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils absent with the average number of half days missed for each of these pupils due to unauthorised absence in Lancashire local authority is given in the following table.

Half days missed per pupil in maintained primary and secondary schools[1] in Lancashire local authority

	Primary schools			*Secondary schools*		
		Unauthorised absence			*Unauthorised absence*	
Local authority	*Number of day pupils of compulsory school age*	*Number of pupils absent*	*Average number of half days missed*	*Number of day pupils of compulsory school age*	*Number of pupils absent*	*Average number of half days missed*
2001/02	86,631	8,872	10	72,747	9,069	20
2002/03	85,922	9,110	9	73,566	10,695	17
2003/04	84,338	9,616	9	73,509	11,923	17
2004/05	82,703	10,096	8	72,891	12,388	17
2005/06	81,437	11,634	8	71,580	13,496	15

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

Data are not yet available on the number of times any one individual is absent. Pupil level absence data were collected for the first time via the School Census in January and will be published in March 2007.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time

not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Young People

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18-year-olds were in (i) full-time education, (ii) full-time training, (iii) employment and (iv) none of the above in (A) 1995, (B) 2000, (C) 2005 and (D) the last year for which figures are available, broken down by local education authority. [130252]

Bill Rammell: The Department publish annual statistics on the participation in education and training by 16 and 17-year-olds in each local area in England. The latest publication can be viewed here:
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000645/index.shtml
This publication is the source of the figures used to answer this question.

The table, which has been placed in the Library, gives the number and percentage of *(a)* 16-year-olds and *(b)* 17-year-olds who were in (i) Full-time education, (ii) Work-based learning and (iii) Total in Education and Work-based learning in (A) 1995, (B) 2000 and (C) 2004.

There is no information available on a comparable basis at the local authority level on the participation of 18-year-olds or the number of young people in employment. 2004 is the latest year for which data are available. The figures refer to young people resident in the local authority at the end of the year.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Personation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Leader of the House what steps his Office has taken to raise awareness of the dangers of identity fraud among employees in his Office. [130430]

Mr. Straw: Staff based in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons are regularly reminded of the dangers of identity fraud through intranet bulletins and current security policies. All confidential waste within the Office is shredded to avoid any security risks.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casino Advisory Panel

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which members of the Casino Advisory Panel were appointed because of their experience in assessing the regenerative impact of a regional casino. [129986]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* The skills and experience required by the Chair and members of the Casino Advisory Panel were set out in the role specification that formed part of the recruitment pack. Ministers were seeking people with skills and experience at a senior, strategic level in one or more of the following areas:

the local or regional planning system;
regeneration of disadvantaged areas;
the leisure and tourism industries;
the evaluation of economic change and its social impact.

Biographical details of the five individuals selected to become the Chair and members of the Casino Advisory Panel were included in the press release, issued on 30 September 2005, which announced the establishment of the panel.

The press release is available on the Panel's website at www.culture.gov.uk/cap. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Casino Advisory Panel's guidance issued to the participants in the Examinations in Public. [129989]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* None. The Casino Advisory Panel is independent from Government and the conduct of the examinations in public (EiP) was entirely a matter for the Panel.

The House of Lords Merits Committee of Statutory Instruments held an evidence session on the Draft Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Casino Premises Licences) Order 2007 on 13 March 2007.

Prior to the hearing, interested parties, including the local authorities that bid for the regional casino licences, were invited to submit written evidence to the Committee. It was clear from the evidence submitted that some parties were concerned about some aspects of the EiPs but that many others were satisfied that the Panel had conducted the examinations in a fair and open manner.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions the Casino Advisory Panel had with Government departments other than her Department on the definition of regeneration benefits in drawing up its report. [130351]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The Casino Advisory Panel was set up to operate entirely independently of the Government. The manner in which it carried out its work, within its agreed terms of reference and remit, was entirely a matter for the panel.

The panel drew on a large amount of material and evidence in preparing its report. In chapters 4 and 5 of its report, the panel considered regeneration issues and took account of the Department for Communities and Local Government's indices of multiple deprivation.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions there have been between the Casino Advisory Panel's Chairman and her Department on how the panel reached its definition of social impact since the publication of the panel's report on 30 January. [130352]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* There has been no discussion between the Department and the chairman of the Casino Advisory Panel on this topic since the publication of the panel's report on 30 January.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what briefing on *(a)* social impact and *(b)* regeneration officials in her Department gave to the Chair of the Casino Advisory Panel prior to his appearance before the House of

Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee on 13 March. [130353]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 27 March 2007]*: DCMS officials did not provide Professor Crow, Chairman of the Casino Advisory Panel, with briefing on any topic prior to his appearance before the House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee on 13 March.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic of each was. [129471]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has had a zero spend on sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements or funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to ensure her Department's economical use of paper. [128010]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's policy on the economic use of paper contains the following elements:

deployment of multifunctional devices for printing and copying that default to double sided output;

staff are instructed to read on screen rather than print emails and documents unnecessarily;

internal publications, instructions and manuals are issued online through the Department's intranet;

the Department uses recycled paper; and,

the Department uses electronic tendering solutions to reduce the amount of paper work and postage created through the use of manual systems.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1596W, on digital switchover, if she will break down by category of eligibility the estimate of the number of Whitehaven households entitled to targeted assistance. [129118]

Mr. Woodward: Our current estimate of the number of people potentially eligible to assistance from the digital switchover help scheme in the Whitehaven area is set out in the table.

Households eligible for support free of charge	*Number*
Households 75 plus, receiving pension credit	1,900
Disabled households, receiving pension credit/income support/ income-based job seekers allowance	1,200
Total	3,100
Households eligible for support for the £40 charge	
Households 75 plus	2,600
Disabled households	2,900
Total	5,500
Total households eligible for help	8,600

Notes:

1. Totals rounded to the nearest hundred. The figures are based on information from the whole Copeland constituency rather than the Whitehaven transmitter coverage area (which covers about 90 per cent. of households in the Copeland constituency)
2. Eligibility for help from the digital switchover help scheme will be by "benefit unit" rather than the whole household definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Office to forecast future household growth.
3. The definition of a "benefit unit" is a couple and any dependent children. It excludes adults deemed to be non-dependents who, if eligible, will be able to claim assistance from the help scheme in their own right.

Gambling

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of whether there was a variance between the Casino Advisory Panel's definition of social impact and the Gambling Act's objective of reducing problem gambling, as referred to in the conclusions of the 13th Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Merits of Statutory Instruments, Drawing special attention to the Draft Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Casino Premises Licences) Order 2007. [129988]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 March 2007]*: I wrote to the Lord Filkin, Chairman of the Merits Committee, on 21 March to clarify, among other matters, the remit of the Casino Advisory Panel with regard to social impact. In my letter I said:

"One of the most fundamental arguments made by the Committee, and one which runs throughout the report, is that the Casino Advisory Panel should have placed greater emphasis on the minimisation of harm from gambling. I should explain that this was not the primary consideration we set for the Panel.

The criteria against which the Panel would assess submissions were set out in the Government's national policy statement on casinos, published on 16 December 2004, which makes reference to the protection of children and vulnerable people. In paragraph 10 of its report, the Panel noted that the Department had asked it to have due regard to the national policy statement.

The Panel's primary consideration was to ensure that the locations provide the best possible test of social impact. Subject to this, the criteria were also:

to include areas in need of regeneration (as measured by employment and other social deprivation data)

to ensure that those areas selected are willing to licence a new casino.

I did not ask the Panel to make final recommendations based exclusively on the minimisation of harm from gambling. This is because it is the role of the Gambling Commission to monitor and minimise any harm that might arise from new casino gambling. It was the job of the Casino Advisory Panel to select locations that are best able to be monitored rigorously. I am satisfied that is exactly what they have done."

A copy of my letter has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions her Department has had with HM Treasury on the level of Exchequer funding spent on tackling problem gambling; and if she will make a statement. [130032]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly discusses a wide range of gambling subjects with Treasury Ministers.

The NHS funds via Exchequer funding a number of addiction services many of which will treat problem gamblers.

The gambling industry also provides funding to tackle problem gambling via payments to the Responsibility in Gambling Trust. The trust has recently announced that the gambling industry has committed to meeting the 3m funding target for 2006.

Judo

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether access to a judo UK coaching certificate is dependent on membership of any organisation. [130097]

Mr. Caborn: Sports coach UK is the lead agency responsible for supporting the recognised governing bodies to develop and implement the UK coaching certificate (UKCC).

Sports coach UK advise that a UKCC qualification for judo has now been submitted but is not yet endorsed. Access to existing sport specific UKCC qualifications is not limited to members of specified governing bodies.

Manchester City Council

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what was discussed at her meeting with the leader and chief executive of Manchester city council on 5 February. [129983]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* I discussed a range of issues with the leader and chief executive of Manchester city council on 5 February.

As part of this discussion I explained the next steps in the process of finalising the local authority areas for the 17 new casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005, following the publication of the Casino Advisory Panel report on 30 January; the requirement to consult Scottish and Welsh Ministers; the need to give the panel's report detailed consideration before deciding whether to accept their recommendations; and the need for Parliament to approve that decision.

Millennium Commission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the topics were of the 10 Millennium Commission documents destroyed in the Iron Mountain fire in July 2006. [130549]

Mr. Caborn: As noted in the reply given by Lord Davies of Oldham in another place on 2 November 2006, House of Lords, *Official Report*, column WA65, 509 boxes of Millennium Commission records were destroyed in a fire at the warehouse in Twelvetrees Crescent, Bow, London in July 2006. As further noted in the reply given by Lord Davies in another place on 22 January 2007, House of Lords, *Official Report*, column WA205, 10 documents within these 509 boxes are likely to have contained references to the millennium dome.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asylum Seekers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much was paid *(a)* gross and *(b)* net of asylum support in backdated payments of income-related benefits to those granted refugee status in each year since 2000; [129946]

(2) how many asylum seekers have received backdated payments of income-related benefits since 2000. [129947]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of benefit fraud he estimates to be due to identity fraud, broken down by benefit; and if he will make a statement. [116589]

Mr. Plaskitt: Identity-related benefit fraud represents between 3 and 6 per cent. of total fraud.

We are not able to provide a breakdown by benefit but the evidence suggests that identity-related benefit fraud is concentrated mainly in the income-related benefits.

Where identity fraud is discovered, we take strong action. So far, in 2006-07, we have undertaken 315 successful prosecutions.

We intend to go further, and will take advantage of the opportunities from biometric development and other cross-government initiatives as they become available.

Benefit Overpayments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* income support and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance was overpaid to claimants due to the claimant in question moving abroad in each of the last five years; and how much in each category was overpaid due to (i) fraud and (ii) error; [118810]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total amount of social security benefits overpaid to claimants due to *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error who were ineligible for benefits (i) because they lived abroad, (ii) due to long-term hospitalisation, (iii) due to prison detention, (iv) because the claimant had a partner and claimed as a single person, (v) because of claimant identity discrepancies and (vi) because of false claimant documentation in each of the last five years. [118816]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates are not available for all benefits as a whole. Estimates of overpayments due to false claimant documentation are not available.

The available information is in the following tables.

Overpayment of benefit due to living abroad

£ million

	Income support		Jobseeker's allowance		Pension credit	
	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error
2001-02	14	1	3	0	38	3
2002-03	14	3	1	0	19	2
2003-04	11	0	1	0	18	7
2004-05	14	1	0	2	23	3
2005-06	7	3	0	2	28	2

Overpayment of benefit due to hospitalisation

£ million

	Income support		Jobseeker's allowance		Pension credit	
	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error
2002-03	0	0	0	0	0	2
2003-04	0	0	0	0	0	3
2004-05	0	1	0	0	0	1
2005-06	0	2	0	0	0	0

Overpayment of benefits to prisoners

£ million

	Income support		Jobseeker's allowance		Pension credit	
	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error
2002-03	2	0	0	0	0	0
2003-04	3	2	0	0	0	0
2004-05	6	0	0	1	0	0
2005-06	3	1	0	0	0	0

Overpayment of benefit due to living together

£ million

	Income support		Jobseeker's allowance		Pension credit	
	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error
2001-02	156	5	21	1	4	5
2002-03	172	2	11	2	8	0
2003-04	131	7	12	3	3	1
2004-05	86	6	7	2	4	1
2005-06	61	5	5	0	1	3

Overpayment of benefit due to identity discrepancies

£ million

	Income support		Jobseeker's allowance		Pension credit	
	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error	Fraud	Customer error
2001-02	1	0	0	0	0	0
2002-03	0	0	1	0	0	0
2003-04	0	0	1	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005-06	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:
1. All estimates are rounded to the nearest £1 million.
2. All estimates are based on sampling exercises, and are subject to a degree of statistical uncertainty.
3. Estimates for 2003-04 were not published as National Statistics due to concerns about data quality.
4. Not all of the overpayments will necessarily relate to customers who were ineligible for benefit. In some cases they will have been eligible, but to less benefit than they were being paid.
5. Estimates of overpayments of benefit due to hospitalisation, and overpayments to prisoners are not available for 2001-02.
6. Estimates of official error for the above categories are not available.

Overpayment of housing benefit due to living together

£ million

	Housing benefit		
	Fraud	Customer error	Official error
2002-03	70	0	0
2003-04	20	0	0
2004-05	30	0	0
2005-06	20	0	0

Notes:
1. These estimates refer to the HB expenditure and caseload within the scope of the HBR sample. We assume 15 per cent. of expenditure is missing. Most of this is due to long processing times. For more information see the technical appendix.
2. The estimates will not therefore match the extrapolated figures published in the report "Fraud and Error in the Benefits System April 2005 to March 2006".
3. All expenditure values in the table are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
4. Some estimates may not sum due to rounding.
5. All estimates are based on sampling exercises, and are subject to a degree of statistical uncertainty.
6. Estimate not available for 2001-02.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128041]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department for Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment, and the Employment Service. Information prior to 2001 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The following tables detail spend on all advertising and promotional campaigns run by the Department for Work and Pensions for each complete financial year since June 2001.

2005-06

Campaign/subject	TV	Radio	£000 Press
Age positive	—	—	42
State pension deferral	—	—	199
State Second Pension	—	—	695
Pensions Education Fund	—	—	5
National Pensions Debate	—	—	188
Pension Credit	—	50	1,250
Disability Discrimination Act	—	236	526
Targeting benefit fraud	1,987	1,369	1,114
Council tax benefit	—	—	550
Winter fuel payments	—	—	899
National Sector campaign			23
Images of disability	—	—	—
Age Partnership Group	—	—	—
Total	1,987	1,655	5,491

2004-05

Campaign/subject	TV	Radio	£000 Press
Age positive	—	—	29
State pension deferral	—	—	113
Disability Discrimination Act	—	1,016	885
Targeting benefit fraud	1,481	1,140	618

2004-05

Campaign/subject	TV	Radio	£000 Press
Direct payment	2,668	930	4,046
Council tax benefit	—	13	661
Pension credit	1,688	47	2,634
Winter fuel payments	—	—	515
IB reforms pilots	—	35	71
Lone parent leaflet promotion marketing	—	—	216
National vacancy campaign	—	—	324
Total	5,837	3,181	10,113

2003-04

Campaign/subject	TV	Radio	£000 Press
Age positive	—	—	70
Second state pension	—	—	216
Pension service awareness	—	—	906
New deal	3,526	818	1,043
Disability Discrimination Act	—	40	—
Targeting benefit fraud	1,835	1,145	1,423
Direct payment	3,594	1,872	5,389
Council tax benefit	—	—	556
Pension credit	3,571	31	6,305
Winter fuel payments	—	—	625
Jobseekers direct	1,566	—	66
IB reforms pilot	—	45	68
Jobcentre plus customer marketing	—	—	12
National employer campaign	—	—	1,158
Total	14,092	3,951	17,838

2002-03

Campaign/subject	TV	Radio	£000 Press
Age positive	—	—	644
Future pensioners/informed choice	1,577	—	1,301
Second state pension	—	—	489
New deal for musicians	—	—	33
Disability Discrimination Act	—	50	—
Targeting benefit fraud	—	35	—
Direct payment	—	383	475
Winter fuel payments	—	—	627
Inherited SERPS	—	—	646
Total	1,577	468	4,215

The tables do not include the following, as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost:

spend by non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible

details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing businesses

recruitment or procurement advertising

The figures in these tables refer to media spend only, and exclude production and other costs. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

All figures are exclusive of VAT.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which functions of his Department have been privatised or outsourced since May 2005. [127447]

Mrs. McGuire: Since May 2005 the Department has outsourced the following functions:

The processing of winter fuel payments;

The pension credit application line;

Clerical case management for some Child Support Agency cases;

Support for Child Support Agency debt collection.

In addition since 2005 the Department has re-let a number of deals for services that had originally been outsourced before 2005. These were:

Office services—contract awarded September 2006.

Medical services—contract awarded September 2005.

None of these outsourced services are delivered outside the United Kingdom.

Departments: PFI

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) for which future projects his Department is considering a private finance initiative deal; what the estimated lifetime value of each potential contract is; and what period each will cover; [125187]

(2) what percentage of his Department's budget was taken up by private finance initiative commitments in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [125192]

(3) what percentage of his Department's budget will be taken up by private finance initiative commitments in each of the next 10 years assuming that the budget grows in line with the Treasury's estimates for gross domestic product over the period; and if he will make a statement. [125193]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department will consider PFI as an option when assessing the best value for money route to deliver its services. The Department for Work and Pensions uses a PFI route to obtain estates services under the Private Sector Resource Initiative for the Management of the Estate (PRIME) contract. PRIME is a 20 year PFI partnership deal, competitively let to Trillium (now Land Securities Trillium) on 1 April 1998. The deal involved the transfer of ownership and management of the majority of the then Department of Social Security premises to the private sector. Following the creation of the Department for Work and Pensions, PRIME was expanded in 2003 to cover ex-Employment Service estate. The Department secured a range of important new value for money mechanisms, bringing the deal in line with new Government guidelines for PFI deals.

The Department currently has no plans to use PFI in new areas, but the option will be considered for future services, except IS/IT which under Government policy are not considered suitable for PFI.

The percentage of the Department's total budget taken up by PFI commitments in each of the years since the Department was formed in 2001 is shown in the following table.

	Percentage
2000-01	0.30
2001-02	0.29
2002-03	0.29

	Percentage
2003-04	0.37
2004-05	0.53
2005-06	0.54
2006-07	0.50

The forecast percentage of the Department's total budget that will be taken up by PFI commitments in each of the years to the end of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period is shown in the following table. In line with Treasury guidance it is not considered appropriate to model the Department's budget beyond 2011 based on the gross domestic product projections.

	Percentage
2007-08	0.48
2008-09	0.46
2009-10	0.45
2010-11	0.44

In line with Treasury guidance the total budget figure comprises both the Department's Delegated Expenditure Limit and Annually Managed Expenditure. However, it should be noted that this Department's Annually Managed Expenditure largely covers the cost of benefit payments; it is not therefore a potential target for PFI in the way that other departments expenditure might be, for example deals for bridge or school building or maintenance.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households are in receipt of each component of disability living allowance for a child, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency. [129805]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available by household. Information on the number of children receiving disability living allowance in each region, local authority and parliamentary constituency has been placed in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the 16 hour rule; and if he will make a statement. [128729]

Mr. Plaskitt: The 16 hour rule, defined in regulations, affects entitlement to housing benefit and jobseeker's allowance (JSA). People may study for up to 16 hours a week and still be entitled to those benefits, but their benefit entitlement ends if they exceed 16 hours. Financial support for full-time students (with some exceptions) is the responsibility of the education and not the benefits system. The 16 hour rule exists to support that principle and, in the case of JSA, to ensure that people concentrate on looking for a job.

Members of the Foyer Federation continue to lobby for changes to the housing benefit rules to allow young people at risk of homelessness to receive housing benefit while in full-time study. We accept that some young people in these circumstances may need a second chance at learning and are considering how we might be able to help. We also continue to receive approaches to waive the JSA 16 hour rule in specific circumstances. Our response is to clarify the rule's purpose and effect and that the Employment and Training Act 1973 allows us to target unemployed people who face particular labour market disadvantage, by removing them from JSA and the requirement to actively seek work, instead paying them training allowances to undertake full-time training. We are using these arrangements in the 'Adult Learning Option' pilots which are supporting our customers towards achieving a Level 2 qualification. The budget that supports training allowances is finite and this route to full-time learning has to be carefully targeted on those most in need.

Pensions: Armed Forces

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in total have received a pre-1950 widow's pension arising from their husbands' service in the armed forces prior to August 1950; how many women are receiving such a pension; what the value is of such a pension; what the cost of such pensions was in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost of such pensions has been since their inception. [126555]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

Neither the Department for Work and Pensions nor the Ministry of Defence holds the specific information requested on the number of women who received—or are still receiving—a widow's pension arising from their husband's service in the armed forces prior to August 1950.

I can confirm that there are 38,425 War Widows pensions in payment arising from their spouse's service both before and after August 1950. We cannot ascertain how many of those will be before August 1950 without trawling through the individual records which would require disproportionate administrative effort.

In relation to the question of costs I can confirm that the current average weekly value of a widow's pension is £100.76 for all war widows irrespective of date. This gives an annual cost for all widows' pensions of approximately £200 million for the period up to 31 December 2006. The overall average weekly payment to widows or widowers including supplementary allowances is £191.09.

Detailed financial information relating to war pension costs has been issued on a quarterly basis by the Defence Analytical Services Agency since 2001 and the relevant publications are available in the Library of the House.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who claimed *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* severe disablement allowance and *(c)*

income support for incapacity who moved from permitted work into employment of 16 hours a week or more in each of the last three years. [127818]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested.

Evaluations carried out by the Institute for Employment Studies on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, which consider the stepping stone effect of permitted work, have been published.

Copies of the following reports have been placed in the Library:

A Stepping Stone to Employment: An Evaluation of the Permitted Work Rules—Wave 2 (2004) [wave 2]; and

Final Outcomes from the Permitted Work Rules, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report No.268. (2005) [wave 3]

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many types of benefits are paid to UK citizens who live outside the UK but within the European economic area under European Community Regulation 1408/71. [126428]

Mr. Plaskitt: The following benefits are payable to UK citizens living outside the UK but within the European economic area, subject to the EU social security regulations and the individual benefits' rules.

Widows' and bereavement benefits: widowed mother's allowance, widow's pension, bereavement allowance, widowed parent's allowance and bereavement payment.

Benefits for accidents at work and industrial diseases: industrial injuries disablement benefit, industrial death benefit, retirement allowance, constant attendance allowance, reduced earnings allowance, exceptionally severe disablement allowance, unemployability supplement.

Family benefits: guardian's allowance (administered by HM Revenue and Customs), child benefit (administered by HM Revenue and Customs), child tax credit (administered by HM Revenue and Customs).

Disability living allowance or attendance allowance (payable if the claimant started receiving it before 1 June 1992 while living in the UK).

Carer's allowance (payable if the claimant started receiving it before 1 June1992 and the person being cared for is also getting disability living allowance or attendance allowance).

Winter fuel payment (payable if the claimant first started receiving the winter fuel payment while living in the UK).

Statutory sick pay/statutory maternity pay (paid by the employer and administered by HMRC).

State pension.

Maternity allowance.

Contribution-based jobseeker's allowance.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on administering the benefit fraud hotline in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124709]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available broken down by month.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128004]

Mr. Hain: The NIO's overall policy on the consumption of any resource is to reduce, reuse and recycle. In taking this forward we give advice and guidance to staff on a range of sustainability issues via our intranet and through awareness seminars.

With regard to economical use of paper the policy is to avoid printing or copying documents unnecessarily, and if printing or copying is necessary to use a printer or copier capable of double sided printing. In addition we have greatly reduced the circulation of information on paper in favour of circulation by electronic means.

In order to measure the effectiveness of this policy we have initiated a mechanism whereby we monitor the purchase of A4 paper.

Elections

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many election petitions have been heard in the courts in Northern Ireland since 2000; what the outcome was of each case in which no proceedings are active; which election each concerned; and what the nature was of the petition. [129411]

Mr. Hanson: There has only been one election petition heard in the courts in Northern Ireland since 2000. This was in relation to a polling place at the parliamentary election in 2001 which remained open after the statutory closing time of 10.00 pm. The court determined that the votes polled after 10.00 pm had not affected the result.

Electoral Register

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of individual registration in the recent Northern Ireland elections. [128936]

Mr. Hanson: The Electoral Commission will be commenting on individual registration and other administrative matters to do with the Assembly election in its statutory report to be published in June 2007.

English Language

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government is taking to provide free English language courses for foreign citizens living in Northern Ireland. [128394]

Maria Eagle: In Northern Ireland the Department for Employment and Learning's Strategy is to provide English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses as part of its mainstream Further Education provision.

Provision is accessible through the network of Further Education Colleges located across all areas of NI. Although most colleges offer access to ESOL free of charge (subject to standard residency requirements, applicable across the UK) some colleges exercise their right to charge a small registration fee.

The Department gives the highest weighting within the Further Education Funding Formula to ESOL provision. There is no cap on provision and the funding incentive for colleges has clearly benefited the uptake and delivery of this provision.

Fly Tipping

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were charged with dumping offences in each local authority area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and what penalty was imposed in each case. [129556]

David Cairns: The Environment and Heritage Service took over responsibility for waste management from the district councils in December 2003. Information is not available prior to that date. Details on convictions, acquittals and associated fines for each district council area from late 2003 to date are set out in the following tables.

	Number				Number			
Council	*Convicted*	*Acquitted*	*Total 2003*	*Total fines (£)*	*Convicted*	*Acquitted*	*Total 2004*	*Total fines (£)*
Antrim	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	100
Ards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Armagh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballymena	2	—	2	225	1	—	1	150
Ballymoney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Banbridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast	—	—	—	—	8	—	8	1,225
Carrickfergus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castlereagh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coleraine	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	400
Cookstown	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	500
Craigavon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derry	1	—	1	120	1	—	1	50
Down	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	5,450
Dungannon	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	100
Fermanagh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larne	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	2,425
Limavady	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lisburn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Magherafelt	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1,500
Moyle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newry Mourne	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newtownabbey	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4,000
North Down	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Omagh	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	300
Strabane	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3,000
Totals	—	—	3	345	—	—	25	19,200

	Number				Number			
Council	*Convicted*	*Acquitted*	*Total 2005*	*Total fines (£)*	*Convicted*	*Acquitted*	*Total 2006*	*Total fines (£)*
Antrim	4	—	4	4,850	9	—	9	9,750
Ards	1	—	1	450	8	2	10	21,300
Armagh	3	—	3	1,200	—	—	—	—
Ballymena	2	—	2	1,800	2	—	2	500
Ballymoney	7	—	7	4,250	12	—	12	6,450
Banbridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast	5	—	5	30,000	8	—	8	7,900
Carrickfergus	1	—	1	1,400	—	—	—	—
Castlereagh	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	13,000
Coleraine	3	—	3	1,800	15	1	16	14,800
Cookstown	1	—	1	250	4	—	4	6,500
Craigavon	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2,950
Derry	3	—	3	17,000	5	—	5	7,450
Down	2	—	2	1,100	—	—	—	—
Dungannon	5	—	5	2,650	4	7	11	13,850
Fermanagh	1	—	1	1,000	3	—	3	3,500

Council	Number Convicted	Acquitted	Total 2005	Total fines (£)	Number Convicted	Acquitted	Total 2006	Total fines (£)
Larne	1	—	1	300	1	—	1	12,500
Limavady	3	—	3	5,620	5	—	5	4,600
Lisburn	7	—	7	7,850	7	—	7	10,500
Magherafelt	3	—	3	14,600	3	—	3	0
Moyle	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	3,500
Newry Mourne	3	—	3	1,600	2	—	2	1,400
Newtownabbey	1	—	1	4,500	1	—	1	0
North Down	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1,000
Omagh	1	—	1	100	7	1	8	5,700
Strabane	3	—	3	6,850	7	—	7	11,000
Totals	—	—	60	109,170	—	—	123	158,150

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of illegal dumping were recorded in each local authority area in each of the last six years; and how much was spent by each local authority in cleaning up illegal dumping over the same period. [129577]

David Cairns: Incidents of illegal dumping investigated by Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) are set out for each district council area in the following table. Records on the clean-up costs of illegal dumping are not held either by district councils or EHS.

Council	Total number 2004	2005	2006
Antrim	76	60	65
Ards	93	92	99
Armagh	124	74	65
Ballymena	23	32	64
Ballymoney	13	18	8
Banbridge	24	42	41
Belfast	83	58	67
Carrickfergus	7	10	26
Castlereagh	7	24	31
Coleraine	21	29	33
Cookstown	22	44	45
Craigavon	50	83	106
Derry City	61	34	43
Down	124	75	98
Dungannon	68	76	93
Fermanagh	66	51	91
Larne	29	24	31
Limavady	18	46	36
Lisburn	66	96	68
Magherafelt	33	30	39
Moyle	14	19	26
Newry Mourne	62	90	72
Newtownabbey	50	50	51
North Down	16	34	16
Omagh	51	57	58
Strabane	25	80	39
Totals	1226	1328	1411

Hearing Aids: Digital Technology

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have received a digital hearing aid in each health trust area since their introduction in Northern Ireland; and what the average number of people on waiting lists for digital hearing aids was in each health trust area in the same period. [129580]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of people receiving digital hearing aids in Northern Ireland was first collected for the quarter ending 31 March 2006, and is presented in Table 1. More recent information is not available at this time.

Table 1: Number of patients fitted with digital hearing aids during quarter ending 31 March 2006, by health trust

Hospitals	Patients fitted during quarter
Royal group of hospitals	325
Belfast city hospital	299
Mater hospital	160
Ulster community and hospital	182
Lagan Valley hospital	96
Downe hospital	54
Causeway/united hospitals	404
Armagh and Dungannon	256
Craigavon area hospital	213
Daisy hill hospital	89
Altnagelvin hospital	265
Sperrin lakeland	232
Northern ireland	2,575

Source:
Community Information Branch return AUDI

Information on the number of people waiting for a digital hearing aid is only available for 31 March 2006. Information is therefore not available on the average number of people waiting for digital hearing aids. Information on the number of people waiting for a hearing assessment/reassessment at 31 March 2006 is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of patients waiting for a hearing assessment/reassessment at 31 March 2006, by health trust

Trust/hospital	Patients waiting
Royal hospital	0
Causeway/United hospitals	64
UCHT	349
Lagan Valley	0
Belfast city hospital	278
Mater hospital	148
Armagh and Dungannon	426
Craigavon area hospital	379
Newry and Mourne	138
Altnagelvin	38
Sperrin Lakeland	302
Downe Hospital	62
Northern Ireland	2,184

[1] The information in the table is based on where a client is treated and not necessarily where the client lives, i.e. a client from the northern board may be seen in the Royal hospital and their details included in the eastern board.
Source:
Community Information Branch return AUDI

Homeopathy

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people requested homeopathic treatment in each health trust area in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [129332]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of people who have requested homeopathic treatment in each of the health trusts is not available.

However, a survey of 452 cancer patients in Northern Ireland carried out by Action Cancer and the Gerard Lynch centre, Belvoir Park hospital, in 2004 found that 24.6 per cent. would like the opportunity of using homeopathy if it was provided as part of their health service treatment. The survey was carried out at outpatient facilities which deliver chemotherapy and outpatient review appointments at Altnagelvin, Antrim, Craigavon and the Ulster hospitals. Results were also gathered from the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre which refers to Belvoir Park, Belfast City and Royal Victoria hospitals.

Lung Cancer

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he intends to implement the objectives of the Lung Cancer Patients' Charter in Northern Ireland. [129581]

Paul Goggins: On 9 November 2006 my Department published a Cancer Control Programme for Northern Ireland. This plan sets out recommendations and actions for the further strengthening of cancer services, including lung cancer services, and the setting of standards for the delivery of those services. In addition the Northern Ireland Cancer Network has established a Regional Lung Cancer Group which reviews existing standards and guidelines and develops regionally agreed standards of care. I am confident that this programme of work aligns effectively with the principles set out in the Lung Cancer Patients' Charter.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicle tax evasion offences were recorded in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and what range of penalties were imposed for vehicle tax evasion offences over the same period. [129663]

David Cairns: Before the implementation of a new IT system in April 2002, the information was not held in a format which enables the figures requested to be collated without disproportionate effort.

	Offence		
	On-the-road unlicensed detections	Failure to make a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN)[1]	Continuous Registration (CR)[1]
2002-03	34,567	22,394	—
2003-04	27,189	47,556	3,256
2004-05	25,112	—	67,155
2005-06	34,957	—	66,779
2006-February 2007	30,218	—	46,394

[1] The offence of failing to make a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN)was superseded by the introduction of the Continuous Registration legislation in December 2003.

Penalties for on-the-road detections of unlicensed vehicles penalties are based on a standard calculation of 1.5 or 2 times the arrears of duty outstanding, depending on the offence, plus a £30 administration fee. The maximum fine that can be imposed by the court on conviction is a level 3 (£1,000) or level 4 (£2,500) fine, depending on the offence, or 5 times the amount of the vehicle excise duty chargeable, whichever is the greater.

Statutory Off Road Notification legislation was introduced in December 2002 requiring the keeper to renew their vehicle licence or to complete a SORN declaration if the vehicle remained unlicensed. The penalty for failure to comply was £45, reduced to £25 if paid within 28 days. The maximum fine that could be imposed by the court on conviction was at level 3 (£1,000).

The penalty for failure to comply with Continuous Registration legislation is £80, reduced to £40 if paid within 28 days. The minimum fine that could be imposed is at level 3 (£1,000).

Recycling

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many public recycling facilities are in operation in each district council area in Northern Ireland. [129578]

David Cairns: Statistics for such facilities in each district council area have been included in the three regional Waste Management Plans. The following table contains a breakdown of the numbers of facilities by district council area.

Council area	Civic amenity site/household waste recycling centre	Recycling point/bring site
Antrim	3	2
Ards	7	10
Armagh	4	13
Ballymena	2	9
Ballymoney	2	12
Banbridge	3	27
Belfast	9	39
Carrickfergus	1	3
Castlereagh	11	2
Coleraine	6	12
Cookstown	2	17
Craigavon	2	8
Derry	7	15
Down	4	42
Dungannon	6	23

Council area	City amenity civic/household waste recycling centres	Recycling point/bring sites
Fermanagh	4	20
Larne	2	9
Limavady	4	7
Lisburn	2	18
Magherafelt	8	19
Moyle	1	10
Newry	7	36
Newtownabbey	1	0
North Down	2	2
Omagh	1	26
Strabane	9	6

Schools: Fires

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much fires in schools in Northern Ireland cost in each of the last 10 years. [128392]

Maria Eagle: Information on the cost of damage to schools in Northern Ireland caused by fires in each of the last 10 yeas is not readily available. This information has been requested from the Education and Library Boards and will be provided to the hon. Gentleman in writing as soon as possible.

Social Housing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new social housing dwellings he expects to be built in Northern Ireland in the next financial year. [129779]

Mr. Hanson: The target is to start 1,500 social houses in 2007-08.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department were assigned to benefit fraud investigations in each of the last six years, broken down by grade. [129533]

Mr. Hanson: The number of staff in the Department for Social Development who were assigned to benefit fraud investigations, broken down by grade, is shown in the following table. Reliable information can be provided only for the current year and the previous two years.

	As at 31 March		
Position at	2005	2006	2007
Grade 7	1	1	1
Deputy Principal	1	1	1
Staff Officer	5	6	6
Executive Officer 1	17	18	20
Social Security Officer 1	105	112	112
Social Security Officer 2	41	41	32
Administrative Assistant	9	13	7
Temporary Administrative Assistant	3	5	3
Typist	2	3	3
Total	184	200	185

Taxis: Disabled

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government is taking to increase the availability of licensed disabled access taxis in Northern Ireland. [130329]

David Cairns: Regulations already require all Belfast Public Hire taxis to be wheelchair accessible and their numbers have increased from 239 in 2002-03 to 380 in 2005-06.

In August 2006 I announced that a Door-2-Door transport scheme will operate in 27 towns and cities providing services across Northern Ireland for disabled and older people who find it difficult or impossible to use conventional public transport. This has led to the licensing of a further 25 accessible taxis, bringing the estimated total to 1,500—equivalent to approximately 14 per cent. of all licensed taxis.

The draft Taxis Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 laid on 9 January contains measures intended to increase the availability of accessible taxis by requiring taxi operators to provide more taxis designed to meet the needs of older people and people with disabilities and to allow only accessible taxis to use taxi ranks. On restoration, responsibility for policy and legislation on taxis will transfer to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Teachers: Pensions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will amend the Teachers' Superannuation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 to allow teachers from independent schools to join the Northern Ireland Teachers' Superannuation Scheme; and what estimate he has made of the number of teachers affected as a result of the exclusion of independent schools from the scheme. [129666]

Maria Eagle: The Teachers' Pensions etc (Reform Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, coming into operation on 1 April 2007, make provision for teachers in an independent school to join the Northern Ireland Teachers' Superannuation Scheme, subject to certain conditions being met by the governing body.

There are currently 18 independent schools in Northern Ireland employing approximately 158 teachers.

Translink: Crimes of Violence

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff assaults were recorded on the Translink network in each of the last five years; how many people were charged with assaulting a member of Translink staff over the same period; and how many convictions occurred as a result. [128125]

David Cairns: Translink has advised that figures for the number of assaults on Translink staff are as set out in the following tables.

Northern Ireland Railways (by financial year)

	Number of assaults
2006-07	7
2005-06	9
2004-05	12
2003-04	5
2002-03	9

Ulsterbus and Metro (by calendar year)

	Number of assaults
2006	21
2005	34
2004	27
2003	[1]
2002	[1]

[1] Information relating to this period is not held.

Translink has also advised that it does not have information to produce accurate statistics on the number of persons charged with assault of Translink staff. Translink has advised that it instigated prosecution against no more than 10 individuals in the period.

Translink: Fares

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of fare evasion were recorded on the Translink network in each of the last five years; and what penalties were imposed in each case. [128124]

David Cairns: Translink has advised that not all of the information requested is available. Translink's recorded numbers of fare evasion incidents are as set out in the following tables. Numbers in brackets indicate those dealt with through the courts or by way of formal caution.

Northern Ireland Railways

	Incidents of fare evasion	Average fine (£)
2006	52 (25)	185
2005	54 (31)	127
2004	24 (16)	90
2003	36 (17)	94
2002	36 (20)	90

Ulsterbus and Metro

	Incidents of fare evasion	Average fine
2006	81	None
2005	[1]	—
2004	[1]	—
2003	[1]	—
2002	[1]	—

[1] Figures not available

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the percentage change in fares was across the Translink network in each of the past 10 years. [129514]

David Cairns: The following table sets out details of average fare increases for 2007-08 together with increases in each of the previous nine years. The Department does not hold data for cross border rail services for all the years in question.

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Percentage 2007-08
Ulsterbus	5.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	4.5	3.0	5.0	5.0	9.0	0.0
Citybus/Metro	8.3	4.0	4.5	5.0	4.5	5.0	5.0	2.0	7.0	0.0
Northern Ireland Rail-local	3.6	4.0	4.5	5.0	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	10.0	0.0
Northern Ireland Rail-cross border	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.5	5.0	5.0	n/a	6.0	0.0

Translink: Vandalism

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* convicted and *(b)* charged with vandalising Translink property in each of the last five years; and what the average penalty imposed in each case was. [128122]

David Cairns: Translink has advised that it does not maintain records of unsuccessful prosecutions. The number of successful prosecutions for vandalism is as set out in the following table.

	Number of convictions	Average penalty (£)
2006	5	400.00
2005	8	92.10
2004	7	291.70
2003	6	105.50
2002	5	24.00

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of vandalism to Translink property were recorded in each of the last five years; and what steps he is taking to reduce such figures. [128123]

David Cairns: Translink has provided details of incidents of vandalism in the following tables.

Table 1 refers to vandalism on Northern Ireland Railways property, covering damage to buildings, track and trains. The majority of incidents relate to damage caused to trains.

Table 1: Recorded number of incidents

2006	449
2005	367
2004	408
2003	543
2002	636

Table 2 refers to vandalism on property of Ulsterbus and Metro.

Table 2: Recorded number of incidents

	To buildings etc.	To buses
2006	79	882

Table 2: Recorded number of incidents

	To buildings etc.	To buses
2005	170	1,002
2004	53	797
2003	n/a	n/a
2002	n/a	n/a

Translink is seeking to tackle vandalism by expanding CCTV coverage both at Translink premises and on board buses and trains. Translink may also employ covert surveillance, where appropriate.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of single farm payments in England are paid to persons who do not own farms. [129050]

Barry Gardiner: People who claim under the single payment scheme (SPS) must be farmers with eligible land and payment entitlements. Under the scheme rules a farmer is defined as a natural or legal person, or a group of natural or legal persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, whose holding is situated within the EU and who exercises an agricultural activity.

SPS claimants will include farmers who own farms, rent land and new entrants to the scheme who have land and have brought or leased in entitlements, allowing them to claim.

Air Pollution

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the legal consequences are for the United Kingdom of breaches of European standards for particulate matter air pollution in London in 2005 and 2006. [129856]

Mr. Bradshaw: The primary legal consequence of breaches of air quality limit values is that the European Commission may bring the matter before the European Court of Justice under Article 226 of the European Community Treaty. Further sanctions are available to the Commission in cases where any member state fails to comply with the resulting Court judgment.

In the UK, compliance problems are not widespread—they generally apply at highly localised hotspots (such as a street corner, which are greatly influenced by traffic). In 2005, most people (around 99.9 per cent. of the population) were already breathing air that complied with the PM_{10} standard.

The Ambient Air Quality Directive places a statutory obligation on the Government to produce a plan which explains action that we will take to bring areas of exceedence back into compliance.

Our national air quality strategy review, currently under way, considers additional policy measures that may be needed to help us achieve national and European air quality standards.

Badgers: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has made for arrangements for badger culling by farmers in the event of a decision to license culling. [128105]

Mr. Bradshaw: No decision has been made on badger culling for control of TB including on the organisational questions. Therefore, no arrangements have been put in place.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated on the separation of healthy from bovine TB-infected badgers for the purposes of culling. [128106]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have not conducted specific research on the separation of healthy from bTB-infected badgers in order to identify badgers to be culled.

The research we have evaluated, such as the results emerging from the randomised badger culling trial, shows that bTB is a chronic disease which is endemic and self-maintained at a substantial level in the badger population over large areas of the country. This means that with the available limited blood test having to be repeated three times at intervals on individual animals, it is impractical and verging on the impossible to confidently separate healthy badgers from bTB-infected badgers. Even if a more accurate and rapid test were available, tackling bTB in this chronically infected wildlife reservoir by removing test-positive individuals is not considered a scientifically sound or practical policy.

We have also considered what use the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for detection of Mycobacterium bovis in the environment could be in this instance. While this is yet to be validated for use in the field, it is clear from the researchers that, at the most, it may be possible to use this to identify areas, such as setts, where Mycobacterium bovis is present. However, this would still mean we could not identify individuals that were infected or, at this stage, whether the bacteria detected were viable and infectious.

British Waterways: Finance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what effect the claim on the reserve of non-cash programme resources to cover provision for disallowance arising from Common Agricultural Policy schemes will have on *(a)* the previously announced 2007 budget costs to British Waterways and *(b)* the future funding levels of British Waterways; and if he will make a statement. [128180]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* None.

Common Agricultural Policy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the European Commission to make a decision on disallowances arising from Common Agricultural Policy schemes. [128049]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2182W. Detailed discussions will take place with the Commission over a number of years before a final figure is reached. The Government are committed to defending the UK's interests in these discussions.

Departments: Orders and Regulations

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the total administrative cost of complying with his Department's regulations, as defined in The Defra Simplification Plan "Maximising Outcomes, Minimising Burdens" November 2006, in each year since 2001. [128836]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA, in common with other Government Departments, took part in an exercise during 2005 and 2006 to measure the total administrative burdens imposed by regulations that were in force in May 2005. This exercise had not been undertaken before. The total annual administrative burden imposed on business by DEFRA regulations was assessed to be £527.8 million per year. DEFRA has made a commitment to reduce this burden by 25 per cent. by 2010.

My Department's simplification plan 'Maximising Outcomes, Minimising Burdens' which was published in December 2006 provided an update on progress so far. During the year June 2005-May 2006 an additional £13.5 million of administrative burdens was imposed by new regulations. Against this, simplification initiatives during the period have delivered savings of £51.5 million, a net reduction of £38 million.

DEFRA will publish its next simplification plan toward the end of 2007.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Higher Level Stewardship Scheme applications were *(a)* received and *(b)* approved by (i) English Nature in each month from 2004 until the transfer of the scheme to Natural England and (ii) by Natural England since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [122485]

Barry Gardiner *[pursuant to the reply, 28 February 2007, Official Report, c. 1325W]:* The figures in the Natural England column for August 2006, November 2006 and February 2007 were incorrect. The correct figures are in the table. The rest of the answer remains correct.

The first Higher Level Stewardship agreements commenced on 1 February 2006 and were administered by the Rural Development Service (RDS) rather than English Nature. The environmental land management functions of the Rural Development Service then transferred, on 1 October 2006, to form part of Natural England.

The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme accepts applications on a quarterly rather than monthly basis. The following table sets out applications received and approved by both the RDS and Natural England during the quarterly timeframes the hon. Member refers to:

Quarterly cycle date	*Applications received*	*Applications approved*
Rural Development Service		
February 2006	322	287
May 2006	304	269
August 2006	387	319
Natural England		
November 2006	588	357
February 2007	385	114

The data contained in this table is a snap-shot. As such, it will be subject to future change as Natural England finalises HLS processing. This particularly applies to the February 2007 agreements. There are still a number of cases to be finalised between applicants and Natural England, and figures will change accordingly.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1325W, on the Environmental Stewardship Scheme, how many higher level stewardship scheme applications approved in 2006 were received prior to 1 February 2006. [128536]

Barry Gardiner: Regrettably, I have to advise that I am unable to provide a figure which shows precisely the number of applications approved in 2006 that were received prior to 1 February 2006. This is because the IT system necessary to record such data was not fully in place for the period referred to. In order to now provide this data would necessitate a large-scale manual exercise which would be of disproportionate cost.

Farms: Pupils

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the role of school visits to farms in educating children. [124984]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has not received any recent representations on the importance of school visits to farms for educating children. However, through the Growing Schools programme, we work very closely with organisations that promote children's understanding of food and agriculture, either through visits to farms or through growing within the school grounds.

We support Access to Farms, a national partnership that encourages school visits to farms, and part funded it to develop training and accreditation for farmers who host school visits. We also support and part-fund the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, which publicises farms and gardens to schools and manages a network of more than 60 school farms. We are working closely with DEFRA on the forthcoming Year of Food and Farming, and will publicise it to schools though the Growing Schools programme.

Gyrodactylus Salaris

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures he is taking to keep rivers safe from Gyrodactylus salaris; and if he will make a statement; [128905]

(2) what his contingency plans are for dealing with an outbreak of Gyrodactylus salaris; what risk assessment he has made of Gyrodactylus salaris entering into the UK; and if he will make a statement. [128906]

Mr. Bradshaw: Gyrodactylus salaris (Gs) is a parasite that has the potential to cause widespread losses in both wild and farmed Atlantic salmon. The disease Gyrodactylosis, caused by the parasite, is subject to the notification requirements and control arrangements of the Diseases of Fish Act 1937 (as amended).

The UK is free of Gs and we are doing all we can to ensure that remains the case. In March 2004, following intensive discussion in the EU, we succeeded in re-negotiating robust additional fish health guarantees to safeguard against the introduction of Gs through trade in live fish (Commission Decision 2004/453). The guarantees, in effect, allow movement of live fish of susceptible species only from areas that are considered free of the parasite.

The revised additional guarantees were agreed only after they had been scrutinised by leading UK fish health scientists and assessed by them as posing a negligible risk of introducing Gs into the UK. Subsequently, the EU Permanent Advisory Network for Disease in Aquaculture, made up of international fish health scientists, also considered the measures and came to the same conclusion.

DEFRA has contingency plans in place which have been drafted in close consultation with the Environment Agency, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and other interested parties. In the event of identification of Gs in either farmed or wild freshwater fish stocks, the objective would be to contain and, if possible, eradicate the parasite. Officials are also in regular contact with their counterparts in other Departments and the devolved Administrations about contingency planning.

My Department has also carried out publicity campaigns to raise awareness among the general public (especially those involved in angling) about the dangers of introducing Gs and other diseases through travel to and from high-risk areas. A further campaign is being considered for the near future. Advice on how to keep Gs out of the country is contained in our "Keep Fish Diseases Out" series of guidance leaflets.

Hunting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Countryside Alliance on the operation of the hunting legislation. [127571]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with the Countryside Alliance about the Hunting Act 2004.

International Whaling Commission: Poland

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Polish Foreign Minister on Poland's possible membership of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [129541]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State and the Foreign Secretary have recently jointly written to Poland and 11 other EU and accession states encouraging them to join the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

In support of the UK's position, I raised the issue of IWC membership at a recent meeting of EU Environment Ministers in Luxembourg. I also sent copies of our recent publication 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility' to 57 countries, including Poland, encouraging them to join the effort to protect these species.

DEFRA officials also ensure that Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts in the relevant capitals are briefed, and engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity. This ensures that these countries are in no doubt of the importance that the UK attaches to whale conservation. This is particularly important as we approach the next IWC meeting, to be held in Anchorage, Alaska in May.

Litter: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were issued with a fixed penalty by local authorities as a result of *(a)* dropping litter and *(b)* permitting dog fouling in each of the last five years. [129921]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by local authorities in England in each of the last five years for litter and dog fouling offences is shown in the following table.

April to March each year	*FPNs issued for litter offences*	*FPNs issued for dog fouling offences*
2005-06	33,033	4,066
2004-05	25,216	3,557
2003-04	7,565	2,742
2002-03	12,820	2,036
2001-02	11,615	2,311

Plastics: Recycling

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with European Union environment ministers on ways in which recycling for low density polyethylene (Type 4), Polypropylene (Type 5), Polystyrene (Type 6) and other (Type 7) plastics can be advanced. [129350]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have regular discussions with European Union environment ministers on a range of issues, but none have been held specifically on this issue.

However, the Government are taking action to both support the reduction of plastic packaging in the waste stream and encourage the recycling of plastics more generally. The Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) is also working to create stable markets for a range of recycled materials, including plastics. In 2003, WRAP commissioned Enviros Consulting Ltd to

undertake a study of the markets, applications and growth opportunities for recycled plastics in the UK.

For example, expanded polystyrene can readily be used for insulation in housing and other types of plastics can be recycled into lower grade plastics and used in construction or packaging.

WRAP's targets for 2004-06 are to work with the plastics industry to increase the acceptance of recycled plastic throughout the supply chain, to deliver an additional 20,000 tonnes of domestic plastic bottle recycling capacity, and to ensure that an additional 11,000 tonnes of non-bottle plastics are recycled.

A common use of low density polyethylene is in the production of carrier bags. DEFRA is working closely with the devolved administrations, WRAP, the Scottish Waste Awareness Group and businesses to both promote reusable bags and reduce the number of plastic bags entering the waste stream.

In addition, the packaging regulations set targets for recovery and recycling of packaging waste to be met by obligated businesses each year to enable the UK to meet the targets in the EU Packaging Directive. This requires the UK to recycle 22.5 per cent. of the plastic packaging waste entering the UK waste stream by 2008. Currently, around 20 per cent. of plastic packaging waste is recycled in the UK.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities in England offer facilities for recycling *(a)* low density polyethylene (Type 4), *(b)* polypropylene (Type 5), *(c)* polystyrene (Type 6) and *(d)* other (Type 7) plastics. [129351]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data from the 2006 Waste and Resources Action programme/Recoup UK plastic bottle recycling survey indicate that 86 per cent of local authorities (LAs) already offer some form of collection facilities for plastic bottles.

LAs normally collect plastics by application and not by polymer type. They may, for example, request types of bottles and trays for recycling, instead of distinguishing between different types of plastic. Data are not, therefore, collected on the different types of plastic collected by individual LAs.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding each regional development agency received from *(a)* rural development programmes and *(b)* other programmes run by his Department in each of the last five years; and how much each agency spent on policy areas which are his Department's responsibility in each year. [127396]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA is one of five departments which fund regional development agencies (RDAs) through a single programme budget (the "single pot"). This funding gives RDAs the ability to address regional priorities, while at the same time contributing to the delivery of national public service agreement targets—including DEFRA's public service agreement targets on sustainable development, rural productivity and access to services, and sustainable farming and food. Funding is allocated using a funding formula.

DEFRA funding to the RDAs since 2002-03 is as follows:

£ million

	DEFRA contribution to RDA single pot	BREW[1]
2002-03	41	—
2003-04	41	—
2004-05	46	—
2005-06	72	5
2006-07	73	12

[1] Funding for RDA regional co-ordination of the business resource efficiency and waste programme

The significant increase in the DEFRA contribution to the single pot from 2005-06 is the result of the transfer of additional funding from the Countryside Agency for rural socio-economic activities (£21 million per annum), a commitment made in rural strategy 2004.

How each RDA utilises its single pot allocation will vary according to regional need. Details of RDA priorities and planned spending can be found in individual RDA corporate plans, (approved by Government), with six-monthly reports on performance, setting out what has been achieved. These documents can be found on each RDA website.

Responsibility for the delivery of the socio-economic measures of the Rural Development Programme for England (and legacy of the earlier England Rural Development Programme) was passed to the RDAs on 1 October 2006. This implemented another of the commitments from the rural strategy 2004. The level of funding for the new programme has yet to be finalised but RDAs will have access to a minimum of £40 million per annum over the period 2007-13.

The move to devolve funding to the regions through RDAs is part of the Government's devolving decision-making agenda. RDAs, working in partnership, will decide how to spend their resources to meet national targets and address regional needs. However, DEFRA is confident that by devolving these responsibilities to the RDAs and having increased the resources it makes available to them, rural delivery will become more responsive to local priorities and better focused on areas and people who need it most.

Waste Disposal: Greater London

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans there are to dispose of London's residual waste to landfill sites outside London. [129695]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Mayor of London is making strong efforts to reduce London's reliance on landfill outside its boundaries. The Mayor's spatial development strategy envisages London becoming 85 per cent. self-sufficient with regard to waste management by 2020.

The London boroughs, which are the waste planning authorities, are required to draw up plans which are in general conformity with the Mayor's spatial development strategy. The Government have proposed a strengthening of the Mayor's planning powers, which

is intended to increase his ability to ensure that appropriate development takes place.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of London's waste was disposed of at Newton Longville landfill site in the last 12 months; and how much he estimates will be disposed of at the site in each of the next 10 years. [129696]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency holds records of waste arising in London disposed of at the Newton Longville landfill site. Their data, which is based on operator returns, shows that 17,724.41 tonnes of London's waste were disposed of at the site in 2006.

The Environment Agency does not hold, or have access to, data on future disposal rates and waste origins for this site. This is a commercial matter between the landfill operator, The Waste Recycling Group, and any London boroughs that have contracts with the operator.

White Fish: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reasons he did not proceed with his plans to increase the minimum landing size of bass to 40cm from 6 April; [129060]

(2) what evidence he expects to consider before fulfilling his commitment to increase to minimum landing size for bass; [129061]

(3) what studies his Department has carried out on the effect on discards of increasing the minimum landing size of bass to 40 cm; and if he will make a statement. [129074]

Mr. Bradshaw: I listened carefully to the concerns expressed by the National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations (NFFO) at a meeting on 14 March. It presented a number of issues relating to the impact it said the measures would have on both the stocks of bass and the livelihoods of bass fishermen, and asked me to reconsider my decision.

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) has recently conducted a study on the levels of bass discards from trawlers and the relative impact of an increase in the minimum landing size for bass. I will assess the implications of this report, the points raised by the NFFO and any new evidence before considering whether, and on what date, legislation will come into force.

Wood: Trade

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been provided by his Department for the timber trade action plan (TTAP); when he expects the TTAP report on mills in China to be made available; and if he will make a statement. [127454]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA is not funding the timber trade action plan (TTAP) but has provided a grant of £151,692 from the World Summit On Sustainable Development Implementation Fund to The Tropical Forest Trust, which also manages TTAP. This funding supports a project which aims to help Chinese wood processing firms achieve market demands for legal and sustainable timber. A public report on the first phase of the project—an industry supply chain study—will be available at the end of March.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 406W, on average earnings, what information can be extracted from the Labour Force Survey relating to the pay gap for *(a)* women with dependent children, *(b)* ethnic minorities, *(c)* workers with disabilities and *(d)* workers with the fewest qualifications. [129909]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the pay gap, as represented by average hourly earnings, between men and certain other groups of employees. (129909)

In your earlier question, Official Report Volume 458, column 406, to which you refer, you requested a time series of data from 1997. I pointed out that while the data was available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), it could only be provided at a disproportionate cost. I have therefore only provided data for 2006.

The attached table gives a breakdown of the average hourly earnings of employees of working age, and the percentage pay gap between all male employees and employees who are either women with dependent children, people from ethnic minorities, workers with disabilities, and employees for each of the main qualification groups.

Average hourly earnings shown are based on the statistical mean. The ONS also publishes information for both the mean and median hourly earnings in table 38 of the LFS Historical Quarterly Supplement, which can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LFSHQS/Table38.xls

The results shown are not comparable to those provided in the earlier reply as that information was provided from the Annual Survey of Hourly Earnings (ASHE). The estimates relate to the three months ending June 2006. These estimates have not been seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the LFS. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Average gross hourly earnings of employees of working age[1] and percentage pay gap to all male employees of working age United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

£ and percentage

Three months ending June 2006	*Mean gross hourly earnings (£)*	*Pay gap[2] (percentage)*
All employees[3]	11.12	—
Men	12.38	—
Women	9.81	—
Women with dependent children	10.06	18.7
Ethnic minority groups	10.70	13.6

Average gross hourly earnings of employees of working age[1] and percentage pay gap to all male employees of working age United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

£ and percentage

Three months ending June 2006	*Mean gross hourly earnings (£)*	*Pay gap[2] (percentage)*
Disabled[4]	10.27	17.0
Highest qualification		
Degree or equivalent	16.73	-35.1
Higher education below degree level	12.60	-1.8
GCE A Level or equivalent	10.11	18.3
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	8.70	29.7
Other qualifications	8.39	32.2
No qualifications	7.24	41.5
Don't know	8.46	1.7

[1] 16 to 64 for men and 16-59 for women.
[2] The percentage difference between the relevant hourly pay for all persons in each group, and that of male employees (£12.38).
[3] Includes both full-time and part-time employees.
[4] Includes those who have a long term disability.
Note:
Gross hourly earnings data are known to be underestimated in the LFS. This is principally because of proxy responses.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Birth Statistics

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast he has made of the number of births in England in each strategic health authority area in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030. [129886]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 28 March 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question about the number of births forecast in each strategic health authority area of England for *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030. I am replying in her absence. (129886)

The most recent projection of the number of births at strategic health authority area was made as part of the 2004-based subnational population projections published by the Office for National Statistics in October 2006.

The attached table gives the projected figures for each strategic health authority for the year to mid-2010) 2020 and 2029 (the final year of the 25 year projection horizon) as used in the 2004-based subnational population projections.

Projected births for strategic health authority areas in England 2004—based subnational population projections

Thousand

	2009-10	*2019-20*	*2028-29*
North East	27	27	26
North West	78	80	77
Yorkshire and the Humber	59	62	61
East Midlands	46	48	47
West Midlands	63	65	63
East	62	64	63
London	116	122	122
South East Coast	46	48	48
South Central	45	47	46
South West	51	54	53

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cost of capital gains tax taper relief for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [130105]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the cost of capital gains tax taper relief for 2005-06 and 2006-07 were published in Table A3.3 of the 2007 'Financial Statement and Budget Report'. Estimates for later years are not available.

Central Government Funding: Health Service/Local Government

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the net cost or saving to public funds if central government contributions to local government expenditure and the financing of the health service and of policing were allocated by applying throughout the United Kingdom the same needs-based formulae as are currently used to allocate public spending in England in those fields. [129812]

Mr. Timms: Under the devolved funding arrangements set out in the Statement of Funding Policy published in July 2004 it is for the devolved administrations to determine how much is spent on the health service and local government expenditure, and similarly for policing in Scotland, within their overall block budgets.

We do not have the data to attempt to apply spending formulae for England to local authorities and health trusts in other countries in the UK.

Child Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the amount and proportion of disposable income spent on formal child care by people in each income quintile; and if he will make a statement. [129908]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government do not hold information on the amount and proportion of disposable income spent on formal child care by income quintile. Child care costs vary depending on a number of different factors, including type of care, age of child, time of care, region, whether or not the child is disabled and whether the care is part or full-time.

Child Tax Credit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households receive the disability element of child tax credit, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency. [129800]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the average number of in-work families benefiting from the disabled child element of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in each area requested, are shown in 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards 2004-05. Geographical Analyses'. This publication can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information for 2005-06 finalised awards will be published in May 2007.

Complete information on the number of out of work families in each area benefiting from the disabled child element of CTC, or the equivalent in benefit payments, is not available.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what media evaluation reports the Valuation Office Agency has produced on council tax in the last 12 months. [129697]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency has produced no media evaluation reports on council tax in the last 12 months.

Council Tax: Wales

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the implementation of the VOA's automated valuation model in Wales for council tax valuation purposes. [129593]

Dawn Primarolo: The automated valuation model was not used for valuation purposes in the 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales. The possibility of its future use to keep the banding lists up to date to reflect new or altered properties has been raised with Welsh Assembly Government officials.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the latest year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each publication. [129452]

John Healey: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1738-39W. Further analysis of the spending could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Air Pollution

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what monetary value is assigned by his Department to the social cost of carbon in assessing Government projects; what value was recommended by the Stern review on climate change; and if he will make a statement. [128468]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

In January 2002, "Estimating the Social Cost of Carbon Emission" a Government Economic Service (GES) working paper, was published jointly by DEFRA and the Treasury. It suggested £70 per tonne of Carbon (tC) (within a range of £35 to £140 per tC) as an illustrative estimate for the global damage cost of carbon emissions. This would rise by £1 per tC per year in real terms to reflect the increasing marginal cost of emissions over time. The GES paper also recommended periodic reviews of the illustrative figures as new evidence became available. The UK was almost unique in issuing official guidance on the social cost of carbon (SCC). The scientific and socio-economic uncertainties behind these calculations are very significant.

The Stern Review estimates the SCC for a scenario of unmitigated climate change averaging over time and over different possible outcomes, is $85 per tCO2 in year 2000, rising over time. The equivalent value in 2007 might be around £264-269 per tC.

However, the Stern Review also notes that, if the world converges on a trajectory towards stabilisation at a level that reduces the risks and damages of climate change, the SCC will be lower, perhaps $25-30 per tCO2 in year 2000. Again, this would rise over time. The equivalent value in 2007 might be around £90-95 per tC.

Economists from relevant government departments are currently developing revised guidance on the calculation and use of shadow prices of carbon in informing UK policy decisions in the light of the Stern Review work on the social cost of carbon as well as previous work by DEFRA in this area. The aim is to publish revised guidance by the summer.

Departments: Conferences

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conferences funded by his Department in February 2007 had over 100 attendees. [128373]

John Healey: None.

Departments: Teaching Aids

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* commissioning, *(b)* distribution and *(c)* other costs have been of providing updates to the Red Box teaching pack in the last six months. [128825]

John Healey: The Red Box website has been updated and went live early March. The cost was £24,461.

The printed Red Box has not been updated in the last six months.

Economic Growth

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which independent variables he uses to make his projections of GDP growth; and what form the growth model takes. [129347]

John Healey: The Treasury's approach to economic forecasting is described in the 2007 Budget Report (HC342, paragraphs B30 to B35); and the latest forecast for GDP growth is set out in Chapter B of that report. The Treasury's approach to projecting the economy's trend rate of growth is set out in 'Trend growth: recent developments and prospects', HM Treasury, April 2002; and for a full discussion of the most recent review of the Treasury's trend growth projections see 'Trend growth: new evidence and prospects', HM Treasury, December 2006.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of the graduated rates of tax for vehicle excise duty introduced in 2001 on ownership of cars in the different tax bands. [129739]

John Healey: The Government inherited a one band system of VED in 1997, but now has environmentally graduated carbon dioxide bands. VED's environmental signal to motorists to purchase more fuel efficient cars and to vehicle manufacturers has been progressively refined and sharpened.

This is one of the reasons why the proportion of least polluting cars on our roads has risen by 30 per cent. while that of the most polluting cars has fallen.

The numbers of vehicles in the three lowest carbon dioxide emissions VED bands is forecast to grow significantly in the longer term in part due to VED reform.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has taken steps to encourage cars with large engines that might incur the highest rate of vehicle excise duty to be converted to liquified petroleum gas or other cleaner fuels; [130038]

(2) whether cars which are converted to cleaner fuels will be subject to lower vehicle excise duty. [130096]

John Healey: When CO_2 emissions graduated vehicle excise duty was introduced in 2001 the CO_2 banding structure included a discount for cars capable of using alternative fuels. This discount remains in place and is worth £20 for cars in bands B-E, and £15 for cars in bands F and G. Cars capable of running on liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas and E85 high blend bioethanol are eligible to receive this.

A fuel duty differential has been in place for bioethanol since 2005 and Budget 2007 announced the extension of the 20 pence per litre biofuels duty incentive until 2009-10, offering further certainty to the industry and motorists. As acknowledged in the Chancellor's 2007 Budget report road fuel gases such as compressed natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas can deliver carbon and air quality benefits over conventional road fuels. Duty support is given to these fuels in line with the principles in the Government's alternative fuels framework.

Liquefied petroleum gas currently benefits from a fuel duty incentive over main road fuels which equates to 39.79 pence per litre.

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the exemption of motorists with disabilities from vehicle excise duty; what account is taken of the age of such motorists in eligibility for such exemptions; and if he will make a statement. [130328]

John Healey: Exemption from vehicle excise duty for cars is offered to severely disabled people who are in receipt of war pensioners mobility supplement (WPMS) or the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

The recipient can nominate someone else to drive the car, and the car may be registered either to the recipient or the nominee. However, for the car to remain exempt all journeys must be for the recipient's purposes—for example for taking the recipient to the doctor or for doing the recipient's shopping—otherwise the appropriate rate of Vehicle excise duty must be paid. Vehicle excise duty must be paid on any additional vehicles—the exemption can only be claimed once.

The Government believe that using WPMS and the higher rate mobility component of DLA is the most effective way of delivering this exemption to the people most in need. DLA is only available to people claiming before the age of 65, but once granted can continue in payments beyond the age of 65 so long as the conditions of entitlement remain satisfied.

Gila Sacks

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1490W, on Gila Sacks, whether Gila Sacks is one of his special advisers. [129329]

John Healey: As set out in the PM's annual statement to the House on special advisers, Members of the Council of the Economic Advisers are employed on special adviser terms.

Gross Gaming Yield Band

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the impact on Exchequer revenues of the introduction of a 50 per cent. gross gaming yield band; and if he will make a statement. [130041]

John Healey: Revenue estimates of the 2007 changes to Gaming Duty were published in the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report (HC342).

HM Revenue and Customs

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 342-3W, on HM Revenue and Customs, if he will break down the £850,000 expenditure on implementation of proposals and projects arising from the Angels and Demons scheme by proposal or project. [120745]

Dawn Primarolo: Accrued costs of £844,000 (in the period up to the end of 31 January 2007) break down as follows between three projects:

£50,000 spent by the HMRC Northern Ireland Overseas repayment unit on the introduction of scanning capacity for the processing of VAT reclaim forms and supporting documentation, helping to speed up processing and to prevent fraud.

£558,000 spent on a national project to enable the quicker closure of PAYE schemes when employers cease trading, improving the accuracy and generating efficiencies in the management of PAYE records.

£236,000 on a national project targeted at taxpayers for whom English is not a first language, enabling easier checking and payment of income tax liabilities, generating efficiencies in the reduction of taxpayer errors, and their subsequent correction.

As explained in a previous answer I gave on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 342W, overall expenditure on the portfolio of projects in this scheme is intended to generate returns of 110 per cent. in terms of greater efficiency and reduced administration.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the progress of motor manufacturers towards meeting the targets for new car emission levels set out in the 1998 agreement between the European Automobile Manufacturers Association and the European Commission. [129738]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the response given by the Minister of State for Transport on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1244W.

National Minimum Wage

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many alleged breaches of the national minimum wage legislation by media companies have been presented to HM Revenue and Customs since *(a)* 1 May 2004 and *(b)* 1 January 2007; how many investigations HM Revenue and Customs has carried out into such alleged breaches since each date; and how many prosecutions for breaches of the national minimum wage by media companies there have been since each date. [130027]

Dawn Primarolo: In line with the requirements of the DTI, for whom HMRC enforces the minimum wage, HMRC holds statistical information for 10 employer trade sectors. It does not hold specific information for the media sector and is therefore unable to provide the statistical data requested.

Non-domiciled UK Taxpayers

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what investigations he undertakes into the income and assets held overseas by non-domiciled UK taxpayers. [129969]

Dawn Primarolo: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) carries out investigations into the income and assets held overseas by UK resident non-domiciled taxpayers where this may be relevant to their UK tax liability. Such investigations may occur to verify information given to HMRC by individuals completing self-assessment tax returns or making other claims for non-domiciled status; as a result of third-party disclosure; or because of the outcome of other HMRC inquiries.

No information is available on the number of investigations undertaken by HMRC.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 15 January 2007, on planning gain supplement, why each individual response to the consultation exercise has not been placed in the Library. [129515]

John Healey: The responses to the December 2005 publication "Planning-gain Supplement: a consultation" were placed in the Library of the House on 19 December 2006. The reference number for the set of documents is Dep. 06/2350.

A summary of consultation responses is also available in the Library of the House; the reference number for this document is Dep. 07/461. This document is also available on the Treasury's website.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the increase in the budget for regional development agencies referred to in Paragraph 7.65 of the Budget Red Book, HC 342, is targeted to be used to support the energy efficiency initiative for small and medium-sized businesses in the business resource efficiency advice service. [130031]

John Healey: The nine English regional development agencies (RDAs) are increasing the advice, support and incentives available for environmental improvement and innovation from £140 million in 2006-07 to £240 million in 2007-08. It is for the RDAs to decide the amount of expenditure from their single programme budget used to support the business resource efficiency advice service.

Sainsbury Review

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2232W, on the Sainsbury Review, whether Lord Sainsbury agreed to conduct the review before it was announced. [128455]

John Healey: There is nothing I can add to my earlier answer.

Senior Civil Servants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether each Treasury managing director has a private secretary. [129326]

John Healey: Every Treasury managing director has access to a private secretary or personal assistant.

Smuggling: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Scott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* tobacco products seized by HM Customs in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [129454]

John Healey: The amount of seized alcohol and tobacco products can be found in the HMRC Annual Report
(http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm),
and is shown in the following table.

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Cigarettes seizures (including overseas) (billion)	2.6	1.9	1.3	2.0	2.0
Tobacco seizures (tonnes)	385	258	185	166	160
Spirits seized (million litres)	2.15	0.92	0.41	0.30	0.24
Beer seized (million litres)	2.61	2.95	2.77	2.18	2.52
Wine seized (million litres)	0.61	0.65	1.13	0.63	0.29

Stamp Duty

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what exemptions there are to stamp duty on new houses in Wales; what the cut-off threshold is on stamp duty in Wales; what plans he has for changes in the stamp duty system in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [130022]

Ed Balls: Stamp duty land tax (SDLT) rates and thresholds, like all other national taxes, apply equally to the whole of the UK and have never been set on a regional basis.

The starting residential threshold is currently £125,000 and a higher £150,000 threshold is available in 2,000 disadvantaged wards across the UK.

As announced at Budget 2007, there will be an exemption from SDLT for new zero-carbon homes from 1 October 2007. All qualifying homes under £500,000 will be exempt from SDLT and qualifying homes over £500,000 will have their SDLT bill reduced by £15,000. No exemption from SDLT exists for other types of new homes.

SDLT rates and thresholds, like all other taxes, are kept under constant review as part of the Budget process, and any changes made are announced also as part of this process.

Tax Credits

David Maclean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Penrith and The Border constituency have appealed against a demand for return of overpayments of tax credits since April 2006; and if he will make a statement. [129862]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available.

Taxation

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many changes of the law have been necessitated by inadvertent errors introduced as a result of the tax rewrite project. [130056]

Dawn Primarolo: The Tax Law Rewrite Project has to date produced four Acts—The Capital Allowances Act 2001 (CAA), The Income Tax Earnings and Pension Act 2003 (ITEPA), The Income Tax Trading and Other Income Act 2005 (ITTOIA) and the Income Tax Act 2007 (ITA). These Acts cover more than 2000 pages of legislation.

Nine errors in CAA and eighteen errors in ITEPA were corrected in the Finance Acts 2001 and 2004 respectively.

Four errors in each of ITTOIA and ITA have been corrected using Order-making powers contained in those Acts.

In a number of these cases the corrections have the effect of making the law explicit, rather than changing its substantive effect.

Taxation: Overseas Residence

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the results of HM Treasury's review of non-domiciliary tax status. [130249]

Dawn Primarolo: As was confirmed in the Budget on 21 March, the review of the residence and domicile rules as they affect the taxation of individuals is ongoing.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1219W, on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), if he will place in the Library a CD-ROM of the learning and training documents on the VOA's intranet. [129488]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to provide a CD-Rom of all the learning and training documents on the VOA's Intranet. To attempt to configure it for standalone viewing would involve disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what access the Valuation Office Agency has to the National Register of Social Housing. [129492]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 20 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 73W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1141W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether the agency has a data strategy document separate from the agency's annual report, forward plan and accounts. [129579]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency has many documents which support the data strategy outlined in the agency's annual report, forward plan and accounts.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2134W, on the Valuation Office Agency, what the agency's expenditure was on *HIYA!* magazine and the *Network Gazette* magazine. [129709]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency spent £3,228 on the publication of *HIYA!* and £3,232 on the publication *Network Gazette*.

Valuation Office Agency: ICT

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's estimate is of the

value of the tangible fixed asset of the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model. [129495]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) automated valuation model (AVM) has an estimated value of £6 million.

VAT: Bingo

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to abolish VAT on bingo receipts. [130296]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's policy of applying VAT and duty on bingo participation fees is consistent with our treatment of other player-to-player gaming in a bricks and mortar environment, such as player-to-player card games in casinos.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether CCM15540 (Undisclosed Partners) in the Tax Credits Compliance Manual is being revised; what guidance is available on assessments covered by these circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [130228]

Dawn Primarolo: The Claimant Compliance Manual (CCM) is kept under regular review and updated when required. Chapter 15 of the CCM provides guidance on how to work cases where HMRC find that a claimant has not disclosed that they have a partner.

Welfare Tax Credits: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people living in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire received overpayments of (i) child tax credit and (ii) working tax credit in each of the last five years. [130428]

Mr. Timms: Child and working tax credits were introduced in April 2003.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1421W.

Estimates for 2005-06 of the numbers of in-work families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency based on final family circumstances and incomes are due to be published in May, as set out in the annual scheduled updates section of the HMRC website:
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/updates/index.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of appeals against overpayment of tax credits have not been successful since April 2006; and if he will make a statement. [130323]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Lady to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Gravesham (Mr. Holloway) in the House on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*: column 1045.

Young People: Employment

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people aged under 25 years are in full-time employment; [130192]

(2) how many people are employed to work fewer than 30 hours per week; [130193]

(3) how many people aged 16 to 18 years are in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment. [130194]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 March 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking (1) how many people aged under 25 years are in full-time employment, (2) how many people aged 16 to 18 years are in (a) full-time and (b) part-time employment and (3) how many people are employed to work less than 30 hours per week and. Responses to these questions have been combined in this reply. (130192, 130193, 130194)

Table 1, attached, gives estimates of the numbers of men and women, in full-time and part-time employment for the age bands, 16 to 17 and 16 to 24. Table 2 shows those who work less than 31 hours and 31 or more hours per week, for the three months ending December 2006. These estimates are not seasonally adjusted.

Each month the Office for National Statistics publishes estimates of the number of people working full-time and part-time in the UK, in table 3 of the Labour Market Statistics First Release available in the attached link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HSAVebTable03.xls.

Similarly, estimates of usual weekly hours are available from Table 8 of the same release:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsuk0307.pdf.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1. People aged under 25 years in full-time and part-time employment by gender United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Age		
Three months ending December 2006	16-24	16-17	18-24
All persons			
Total in employment[1]	4,036	594	3,442
Full-time[2]	2,584	140	2,445
Part-time[2]	1,448	454	994
Male			
Total in employment[1]	2,061	277	1,784
Full-time[2]	1,486	90	1,396
Part-time[2]	573	186	387
Female			
Total in employment[1]	1,976	318	1,658
Full-time[2]	1,098	50	1,049
Part-time[2]	875	268	607

[1] Includes those who did not state whether they worked full or part-time.
[2] Full and part time is based on respondents' self assessment, not on hours worked.
Source: ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2. People in employment by hours worked and gender United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Three months ending December 2006	*All persons*	*Male*	*Female*
Total in employment[1]	28,519	15,274	13,246

Table 2: People in employment by hours worked and gender United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Three months ending December 2006	All persons	Male	Female
Less than 30 hours[1]	7,422	1,751	5,671
31+ hours[2]	20,349	13,061	7,288

[1] Includes those who did not state the hours they usually work.
[2] Based on total hours usually worked and includes paid/unpaid overtime.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

HEALTH

Dental Services: Pay

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual income of a dentist is from the work done for the national health service. [121798]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The gross remuneration paid to providers of national health service dental services covers both the practice expenses incurred in providing services and the dentists' net income. For the financial year 2005-06, the average NHS income for general dental services dentists in England and Wales with a reasonable commitment to the NHS was estimated at £76,500 in net terms, plus £88,500 to cover practice expenses. Dentists' gross contract values were increased by 3 per cent. from April 2006 as recommended by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration.

Average net earnings in the current year, 2006-07, will also be affected by any change in the relative level of practice expenses. The Department has made available £100 million over the two-year period 2006-07 and 2007-08 to support capital investment in dental practices.

Hospitals: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1939W, on residential rehabilitation, which *(a)* nine services provide residential rehabilitation beds for single parents with children and *(b)* five services provide beds for couples with children; and how many beds of each type are provided by each service. [119861]

Caroline Flint: This answer corrects information provided in the answer of 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1939W.

There are five services in England which provide residential rehabilitation beds for single parents with children, three of which also provide services for couples with children as residents. Information about the services is shown in the table.

Residential rehabilitation service	Take single parents	Take couples	Take children as residents	Total beds
Gilead Foundation Charity	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Addiction Maps Project	Yes	No	Yes	12
Phoenix House, Brighton, Family Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	17
Phoenix House, Sheffield, Family Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes	24
Tawi House	Yes	No	Yes	12

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the chair of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights on the *(a)* mandate and (b) involvement of the Commission's Race Equality Group. [127450]

Meg Munn: The Race Equality Group referred to in the question was set up by Ministers to advise them on the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights—it is not a group of the Commission itself. The group met three times and discussed a variety of issues including the policy agenda of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights and issues of internal governance.

The Secretary of State has now appointed the chair of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights alongside a Board of Commissioners, and the Commission will determine how it wishes to engage with stakeholders. Officials and I have briefed the chair of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights about the group's work to enable the Commission to determine how it wishes to proceed.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what obligations householders have to co-operate with requests from the Valuation Office Agency to fill in questionnaires to assist with council tax valuations; [129255]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the questionnaire and covering letter which the Valuation Office Agency has sent to householders in the last 12 months in relation to requesting information to assist with council tax valuations; [129230]

(3) whether the Valuation Office Agency obtains property data from any estate agent industry business or organisation other than Rightmove; [129231]

(4) how the Valuation Office Agency identifies whether a domestic dwelling has a conservatory; [129223]

(5) which estate agent companies provide information to the Valuation Office Agency via the Rightmove interface; [129214]

(6) which external organisations have provided *(a)* information on individual domestic properties and *(b)* geo-spatial data to the Valuation Office Agency since 2000. [129213]

Mr. Woolas: I am today placing in the Library an information note about the Valuation Office Agency's

valuation practices. The Government take the view that this, together with the detailed information on valuation which the VGA has already made available on its website and the additional information which has previously been placed in the Library or otherwise provided in response to a number of questions, constitutes a clear and satisfactory statement of how properties are valued for council tax purposes in England.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Absent Voting

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that the qualifications required to vote by post in England, Scotland and Wales are the same as those required in Northern Ireland. [130262]

Bridget Prentice: The availability of postal voting on demand in England, Scotland and Wales has proved very popular, with many electors finding it a convenient way to vote.

Through the Electoral Administration Act 2006, as approved by Parliament, we have put in place a range of measures to strengthen the security of postal voting in England, Scotland and Wales, and to ensure postal votes are securely cast and counted.

The Government do not consider there is sufficient justification to make further changes that would restrict the availability of postal voting in England, Scotland and Wales, as is the case in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how her Department intends to ensure appropriate checks in the monitoring of the trials into *(a)* internet and *(b)* telephone voting to prevent electoral malpractice and fraud. [130268]

Bridget Prentice: The e-voting election systems used in the pilots are subject to rigorous quality assurance assessment by independent experts on behalf of my Department and also to extensive testing by suppliers and local authorities prior to use. All e-voting systems will also include audit processes and records to allow returning officers to have confidence that the numbers of votes cast electronically tallies with those cast.

Additionally the requirement for electors to provide a personally generated passcode or username reduces the potential for credentials to be stolen and misused.

The independent Electoral Commission is required to evaluate all electoral pilot schemes and publish their findings following the elections.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department is taking to prevent coercion and intimidation being used in the trials of *(a)* internet and *(b)* telephone voting. [130274]

Bridget Prentice: If an elector does not feel comfortable with using an e-vote or any form of remote voting they can still vote in person in a polling station.

Electors will be using identifiers that are specific to them in order to access the system and, as with a traditional ballot, there will be no receipt that can be shown by the elector to anyone else afterwards to show how an elector has voted.

My Department is also working with local authorities to ensure that there are good links with local police so that any instances of alleged coercion and intimidation can be investigated as in any normal election. Under new powers contained in the Electoral Administration Act 2006 any attempt to unduly influence an elector could result in a custodial sentence or unlimited fine.

Absent Voting: Proof of Identity

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department will take to verify the identification of people voting *(a)* by mobile telephone and *(b)* via the internet in the forthcoming trials. [130065]

Bridget Prentice: Electors wishing to vote remotely using via the internet or by phone as part of an election pilot scheme will be required to pre-register to use these voting channels, as they are for postal voting.

A combination of two codes, one provided by the elector and one by the local elections office, will be used to identify electors when they log on to vote.

Citizenship

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps the UK is taking under the Fundamental Rights of Citizenship programme (EU budget code 18 04 06); and if she will make a statement. [130637]

Vera Baird: We expect the decision establishing the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme 2007-13 formally to be adopted at the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 19-20 April 2007. Once the decision comes into force, the European Commission will propose an Annual Work programme determining the thematic areas to pursue.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her most recent estimate is of the backlog of HM Coroner's Service inquiries into deaths of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [130434]

Ms Harman: I shall shortly be making a further written ministerial statement which includes the information requested.

Council Tax: Personal Records

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance she has issued on the use of personal information held

for collecting and administering council tax in each of the last three years. [130563]

Vera Baird: The Information Commissioner's revised guidance on the use of personal information held for collecting and administering council tax differs from previous guidance by focussing on the questions to be considered when deciding how council tax information can be used.

Departments: Offices

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* functions of her Department's regional offices will be. [130063]

Bridget Prentice: The Department does not have regional offices.

Electoral Commission

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take to enforce the imposition of financial penalties for parties which fail to comply with the regulatory requirements of the Electoral Commission; and whether her Department intends to introduce additional financial penalties. [130064]

Bridget Prentice: The imposition of financial penalties on political parties that fail to comply with regulatory requirements is entirely a matter for the Electoral Commission.

The Government are currently considering the recent review of the Electoral Commission by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and also the recommendations of the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee and of Sir Hayden Phillips that relate to the regulatory role of the Electoral Commission.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the future role of the Electoral Commission in determining electoral boundary matters will be. [130314]

Bridget Prentice: The Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 currently provides for the transfer of the functions of all the parliamentary boundary commissions, and the local government boundary commissions for England, Wales and Scotland to boundary committees of the Electoral Commission.

However, in its eleventh report, published on 18 January, the Committee on Standards in Public Life recommended that

"the Electoral Commission should no longer have any involvement in electoral boundary matters".

The Government are currently considering its response to that recommendation alongside the others made by the Committee in its eleventh report.

Electoral Register

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to encourage local authorities to enforce the requirement for people to complete and return an annual registration canvass form. [130061]

Bridget Prentice: Electoral registration officers (EROs) are aware of their powers to enforce the requirement that electors complete and return annual registration canvass forms and use them at their discretion if they consider this would be effective.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006) sets out the necessary steps that local authorities must follow to ensure that eligible individuals are registered to vote. These include:

Sending the canvass form more than once to any address.

Conducting house to house inquiries and making contact by such other means as appropriate.

The Act also contains other measures to improve registration rates, such as:

Enabling registration up to 11 days prior to polling day.

Introducing performance standards for EROs.

These are all significant changes and their impact will be kept under review.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average fine was for failing to complete and return an annual registration canvass form in the latest period for which figures are available. [130066]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not collected.

Electoral Register: Proof of Identity

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make it a requirement for individuals registered to vote at polling stations to have to sign the electoral register so that their signatures can be compared against the signature of the person casting the vote. [130275]

Bridget Prentice: While the Government are committed to ensuring the security of UK elections, we have no plans to require all electors to supply a signature when registering to vote.

Land Registry: Digital Technology

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the Land Registry is participating in the European Land Information Service (EULIS) project. [130562]

Vera Baird: Yes, the Land Registry is participating in the EULIS project. The service has been developed and financed by a consortium of European land registration authorities, including HM Land Registry.

Legal Services Commission

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of Legal Services Commission costs are accounted for by administration. [129121]

Vera Baird: The latest figures available (2005-06) show that the Legal Services Commission's administration costs equate to 4.8 per cent. of expenditure on legal aid.

Maintenance: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 867W, on maintenance: children, what information is collected by the courts IT system in relation to child maintenance cases. [129912]

Ms Harman: In the County courts and the Principal Registry of the Family Division "FamilyMan" is the case management system. It is used to record the key events in each case, such as the date of listing of an application, and the date of making and nature of an order (i.e. interim order/final order/order by consent). The information collected by the courts' IT system in relation to child maintenance cases is limited to this. There is no unified IT system in the Family Proceedings Courts. Where a Family Proceedings Court and the County court administrations have been co-located, the Family Proceedings Court can use "FamilyMan".

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Lobby Correspondents

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) how many passes were awarded to lobby correspondents in each year since 2002; [130106]

(2) to which individuals *(a)* press and *(b)* passes have been awarded; and which publication employs each; [130107]

(3) if he will list the categories of passes which have been awarded to lobby correspondents; [130108]

(4) what role *(a)* the Serjeant at Arms Department and *(b)* the Metropolitan police play in the awarding of passes to lobby correspondents; [130109]

(5) how many passes awarded to lobby correspondents have been revoked in the last five years; and for what reasons; [130110]

(6) under what circumstances an individual's press pass may be revoked; [130111]

(7) whether it is the policy of the House authorities to remove press pass privileges from anyone involved in the publication of information relating to the internal security of the House; [130112]

(8) what processes apply to *(a)* applying for and *(b)* issuing (i) standard press passes and (ii) lobby correspondent passes. [130238]

Nick Harvey: The number of passes in issue to lobby correspondents, including temporary passes, in each calendar year since 2002 is as follows:

	Number
2002	261
2003	246
2004	256
2005	244
2006	242
2007	250

Details about which individuals have press passes and the publications they work for can be found at the parliamentary press gallery website at the following address:
http://www.thepressgallery.co.uk/.

Details about which individuals are lobby correspondents and the publications they work for can be found at the parliamentary press gallery website at the following address:
http://www.thepressgallery.co.uk/.

The Serjeant at Arms is responsible for awarding passes to lobby correspondents. This is carried out on his behalf by the Deputy Serjeant at Arms. The Metropolitan police have no role in awarding passes.

No passes awarded to lobby correspondents have been revoked in the last five years.

A press pass may be revoked if the individual constitutes a security risk to the House or if they fail to comply with the rules of the House.

If an individual was involved in the publication of information relating to the internal security of the House, consideration would be given to whether the individual constituted a security risk to the House or if they had breached the rules of the House.

There are no differences in the process for applying for and issuing standard press and lobby correspondent passes.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of India on *(a)* policy towards Burma, *(b)* human rights in Burma, *(c)* the humanitarian needs of displaced peoples living on the India-Burma border and *(d)* the export of gas from Burma. [129967]

Mr. McCartney: My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with the Indian Government about Burma.

We have regular discussions with the Indian Government about their policy towards Burma. The Indian Government is fully aware of the UK's policy towards Burma, including our concerns about human rights and the lack of democracy there.

Most recently, I raised Burma with the Indian Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi on 27 November 2006.

I shall continue to raise the issue of Burma with the Indian Government.

Cambodia: Human Rights

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the Government of Cambodia on the human rights situation in that country; and if she will make a statement. [129562]

Mr. McCartney: With our EU partners, we regularly raise our concerns on human rights with the Government of Cambodia. We underline the importance of adhering to international obligations and the need to respect human rights and the rule of law.

Cambodia: Industrial Relations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the observance of the rights of organised labour in Cambodia by the Government of that country. [129564]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned at the reports of the recent murder of Hy Vuthy, trade union activist. This is the third trade union official to be killed in three years. The local EU representatives have requested the Government of Cambodia ensure that a full enquiry into the circumstances of the death is conducted

without delay and that appropriate action is taken to bring to justice those responsible. We, with our EU partners, will continue to follow developments closely.

Cambodia: Politics and Government

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Cambodia. [129561]

Mr. McCartney: Cambodia is a developing democracy, seeking to overcome decades of war and misrule. It has achieved peace and stability and democratic institutions have taken root. There have been three increasingly open national elections since 1993. Despite significant progress since the Paris Accords in 1991, the country faces continuing problems around governance, corruption and human rights. Cambodia is a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Cambodia is making good progress in reducing poverty, but remains one of the poorest countries in Asia. The economy has enjoyed double-digit growth over recent years.

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) has been established to address the crimes committed under the Khmer Rouge regime of 1975 to 1979. It represents a milestone for Cambodia and an opportunity to break with the past will be in the success of the ECCC, bringing to justice those responsible for serious crimes during the Khmer Rouge period.

Central African Republic

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Government of France on the situation in the Central African Republic. [129007]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has not recently engaged in substantial talks with the Government of France on the current situation in the Central African Republic. However, our embassy in Paris and our high commission in Yaounde are in regular contact with French colleagues and continue to monitor the security and humanitarian situation.

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Chinese National Population and Family Planning Commission on its enforcement of the one child policy; and if she will make a statement. [129526]

Mr. McCartney: We do not take a position on China's right or need to implement family planning policies. However, we did raise our concerns with the Chinese Government following reported abuse of the system, including forced abortion and sterilisation, highlighted by human rights lawyer Chen Guangcheng. We raised the case of Chen Guangcheng at the most recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 5 February and the Chinese government provided information on his case. We continue to monitor Mr. Chen's situation and that of his family.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much her Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [130012]

Mr. Hoon: In the last year the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has made the following expenditure:

£20,000 was paid for a special supplement on UK-Israel relations in English and Hebrew. This was published with the *Haaretz* newspaper (in Tel Aviv) on 27 June 2006. This project was funded by the Public Diplomacy Challenge Fund, financial year 2006-07 from programme expenditure.

£103,330 was used to sponsor newspaper or publication supplements and fund advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year as part of the Know Before You Go Campaign, which is an ongoing travel safety campaign run by the FCO. It encourages all British nationals to be better prepared for their overseas trips with a view to avoiding common travelling traumas, risks and dangers. It is not possible to give a further analysis of this expenditure without incurring disproportionate cost.

It is possible that additional expenditure has been made at Posts. This information is not held centrally at the level of detail which would enable us to answer this question. It could only be researched by contacting each Post, and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

European Union

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how her Department plans to raise the awareness of the public on the Declaration of Berlin. [129543]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are committed to raising public awareness and debate on all EU issues, including the Berlin Declaration. In this 50th anniversary year, we will continue to support a wide range of activities to raise awareness and engage the public in debate on key challenges and the EU's role in helping to address them. For example, I recently launched the "Learning Together" initiative, to encourage more schools in the UK to take part in educational partnerships with schools across Europe. This initiative is making information available to schools across the UK about the exciting opportunities available. Teachers and heads with experience of joint learning projects with other countries will become "Learning Together Ambassadors", and share their experience with other schools interested in joining. We have also put a wide range of information, speeches and other relevant links on activities to mark the 50th anniversary onto the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's europe.gov.uk website. This includes a link to the text of the Berlin Declaration.

Gibraltar: Spain

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the incentive payments offered to Spanish pensioners related to contributions to the Gibraltar Social Security Fund up to 1969, as set out in individual letters sent to those eligible to be paid directly from the UK, have been calculated. [129733]

Mr. Hoon: The payments offered to affected Spanish pensioners relate in part to individuals' contribution records to the Gibraltar Social Insurance Fund.

Incentive payments form part of the wider Cordoba pensions settlement, which removes a substantial liability from the UK taxpayer, as the Spanish Government has agreed not to claim healthcare costs for the affected Spanish pensioners for whom it would be entitled to do.

As under existing arrangements for pension payments, incentive payments are being managed by the Department for International Development, and administered by Crown Agents Bank.

Iran: Capital Punishment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had on use of the death penalty in Iran in the last two years, and with whom. [129341]

Mr. McCartney: We remain deeply concerned about the continued use of the death penalty in Iran. After China, Iran executes more people than any other country in the world. Despite announcing a moratorium on juvenile executions in 2005, Iran still imposes the death penalty for crimes committed before the age of 18. Reports suggest that between five and eight juvenile executions took place in 2005, and at least two in 2006. This is a clear contravention of Iran's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We are also concerned that basic standards surrounding the application of capital punishment are absent in Iran and that death sentences are often carried out in public.

We make frequent representations to the Iranian authorities about the use of the death penalty, both bilaterally and through the EU. On 11 December 2006 our ambassador in Tehran raised our concerns about death sentences handed down to 10 men, with the head of Iran's International Department of the Judiciary. On 21 January and 4 March, the EU presidency in Tehran raised our concerns about specific juvenile death penalty cases and reiterated the EU's longstanding objection to the death penalty in all circumstances. In the last two years, through the EU, we have raised the death penalty with the Iranian authorities at least 15 times.

We also take action through the UN, and were pleased that all EU countries supported a resolution on human rights in Iran at the UN General Assembly in December 2006, which expressed serious concern at "the continuing of public executions, including multiple public executions, and, on a large scale, other executions in the absence of respect for internationally recognized safeguards" and "in particular, deplores the execution of persons who were under the age of 18 at the time their offence was committed".

Malaysia

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* human rights and *(b)* humanitarian situation of refugees living in Malaysia. [129961]

Mr. McCartney: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that there are 40,000-60,000 "persons of concern" in Malaysia. There are concerns about the treatment of refugees, and those claiming refugee status, and there are problems over recognition of refugee papers issued by the UNHCR. Access to people claiming refugee status, or facing deportation, can be difficult.

The UNHCR believes that many refugees or those seeking refugee status are able to find work in the 'black economy' to support themselves, or find support from their ethnic communities in Malaysia.

The UNHCR reports that recent moves to clamp down on suspected illegal immigrants have resulted in human rights violations. Around 20,000 arrests were made in 2006. Those arrested are usually placed in detention camps prior to deportation. The camps are overcrowded, unhygienic, and fail to provide properly for women and children.

Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur keeps in regular contact with the UNHCR in Malaysia. The high commission has consistently supported the work of the UNHCR, including in addressing the issue of recognition of UNHCR-certified persons of concern. We are working with the UNHCR on the way forward.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by her Department to address the issue of the deportation of UNHCR-registered refugees from Malaysia. [129963]

Mr. McCartney: Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur keeps in regular contact with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malaysia. The high commission has consistently supported the work of the UNHCR, including in addressing the issue of deportations from Malaysia. We are working with the UNHCR on the way forward and will continue to do so.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Malaysian government on recognition of UNHCR-certified persons of concern. [129964]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this issue with the Malaysian government. However, our high commission in Kuala Lumpur keeps in regular contact with the UN high commissioner for refugees in Malaysia.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Malaysian government on recognition of the authority of the UNHCR. [129965]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations to the Malaysian government on this issue.

Pakistan: Religious Persons

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of imams granted entry

clearance to work as ministers of religion who could not speak English in each year since 1995. [129075]

Mr. McCartney: Since 2004 ministers of religion applying for entry clearance to the UK to preach are required to have an international English language training system score of four or above in order for their applications to be successful.

There are no figures available from our High Commission in Islamabad to show how many imams who could not speak English may have been issued with visas before this became a requirement of the Immigration Rules.

Research: EC Action

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the Lisbon Agenda target of increased investment in research and development activities to 3 per cent. of GDP in EU member states by 2010. [129547]

Mr. Hoon: Every EU member state is working towards a national research and development target. The UK has a target of spending 2.5 per cent. of gross domestic product on research and development by 2014. The target aims for one third funding from the public sector and two thirds from the private sector, which puts a particular emphasis on raising business research investment.

The EU has taken a number of steps to support member states in making progress towards their targets and to create strong framework conditions for business investment. In particular the recently established Framework programme seven will increase direct EU funding for research and development by 75 per cent.

EU Heads of State and Government reiterated the importance of making progress in this area at this month's European Council.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the G-19 rebel group in Darfur. [129008]

Mr. McCartney: The Group of 19 (G-19) was a grouping of rebel commanders who broke away from the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) following the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May 2006. The group has subsequently divided and in practice no longer exists. Many of its commanders have now re-aligned themselves as the SLM/Non-Signatory Front (NSF), while others remain closer to the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

Our ambassador in Khartoum and the UK permanent representative-designate to the United Nations in New York, John Sawers, met NSF and JEM representatives in El Fasher on 7 March. They pressed them on the need for a comprehensive ceasefire, to protect access for humanitarian workers and to be part of a renewed political process led by the African Union (AU) and UN.

The UK supports the efforts of the AU and UN special envoys for the peace process, Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson, to re-start urgently political negotiations between the Government of Sudan and rebels on Darfur. We have also been supporting efforts by the SLM to organise a commanders' conference in North Darfur, which aims at unifying the rebel movements with the aim of participating in new negotiations with a clearer voice.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will seek discussions with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference following its rejection of the recent UN report on the human rights situation in Darfur. [129006]

Mr. McCartney: The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Mission to Sudan issued a damning report on 12 March, confirming what we already knew about the grave human rights situation in Darfur. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and some Asian states, said that the council should not discuss the report on procedural grounds because the mission had not gone to Sudan.

I, and the UK permanent representative to the HRC, called on the council to take effective action on Darfur and not become mired in procedural debates. We do not accept that the mission report is not valid as the mission failed to go to Sudan. The Government of Sudan reneged on their commitment to co-operate with the mission and refused to grant visas to all members of the mission, so, rightly, none of the members went. The report is based on the assessments of UN humanitarian agencies, the African Union in Addis Ababa and UN High Commissioner for Refugees in eastern Chad. All of these organisations, which have large numbers of staff operating in Darfur and eastern Chad, continue to report an appalling human rights and humanitarian situation there. We will continue to press all members of the HRC, including those from the OIC, to take forward the recommendations in the report.

I also raised this with the Sudanese Justice Minister. I made clear that it was unacceptable that Sudan had not co-operated with the human rights mission to Sudan, which the council had authorised last December.

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action she plans to take in response to Sudan's announcement that it will not recognise the International Criminal Court indictment of individuals allegedly by responsible for the atrocities upon civilians in Darfur. [129283]

Mr. McCartney: The Government welcome the fact that the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor's investigation has got to the point at which he is able to ask for the issuing of summonses against two individuals. It is now for the ICC judges to decide whether to approve this request.

The UK has made clear to the Government of Sudan that, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1593, they must co-operate fully with the ICC in any action the Court decides to take. We are concerned by suggestions that the Government of Sudan will not co-operate and will be monitoring their actions extremely carefully. I raised the ICC investigation with Sudanese Justice Minister El-Mardi when we met in Geneva on 13 March.

Taha Yassin Ramadan

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response she has made to the decision of the Iraqi Appeals Chamber hearing in the case of Taha Yassin Ramadan; what representations she has received, and from whom, on this case; and if she will make a statement. [129569]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not receive any direct representations in this case. The EU presidency, on behalf of all member states and the European Commission, reiterated its opposition to the death penalty to the Government of Iraq and requested that Taha Yassin Ramadan's sentence be commuted. We repeated our concerns to the Government of Iraq on 19 March.

Tibet

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her policy is on *(a)* China's and *(b)* the Dalai Lama's proposals for the status of Tibet. [129574]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to urge the Chinese Government to engage with the representatives of the Dalai Lama, without preconditions, to find a legitimate, long-term solution which is acceptable to the Tibetans. Successive Governments have regarded Tibet as autonomous while recognising the special position of the Chinese authorities there. This continues to be the Government's view.

USA: Foreign Companies

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to the US Embassy on the proposed implementation of extra-territorial legislation in the territory of the UK by the Hilton Group and other US companies. [129503]

Mr. McCartney: I welcome the news in Hilton Hotel Group's recent press release that it will not discriminate against customers and potential customers on the grounds of their nationality. The UK Government opposes all assertions of extraterritorial jurisdiction of other states on UK companies.

The European Commission has competence within the European Community for dealing with extraterritorial measures taken by third countries against EU member states. The Commission is considering how best to take these issues forward.

World Trade: USA

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Chairman of the EU Council of Ministers on progress towards a barrier-free transatlantic market. [129055]

Mr. Hoon: As I set out in my written answer to the hon. Member on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1196-97W, the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) remains our top trade priority, but we welcome German proposals to tackle non-tariff barriers between the EU and US, which are not part of the DDA negotiations.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister attended the 8-9 March European Council in Brussels. Discussions covered a wide range of issues, including the EU-US relationship. Council Working Groups in Brussels have been discussing deepening EU-US Economic Co-operation and preparations for the EU-US summit more broadly.

We remain a strong supporter of promoting EU-US economic co-operation and integration in this sense and are keen to see further progress under the German presidency. Deepening economic co-operation between the EU and the US will not only bring the benefits of helping to remove remaining barriers to trade and investment but also serve as a positive step towards a more flexible and efficient global economy.

We will continue discussions with the Commission, our EU partners and the US in the run up to the EU-US summit on 30 April.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1165W, on BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia, whether remuneration was paid other than fees or commissions. [128469]

Mr. McCartney: Remuneration, whether commission, fee or other, was not, to the knowledge of ECGD, paid to agents having any part in obtaining or negotiating the sale of Eurofighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia. ECGD was told by BAES in its application that there were no agents who played such a part. In that case no remuneration could be payable.

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1165W, on BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia, whether BAE Systems' application for cover for the sale of Eurofighter aircraft for Saudi Arabia received by the Export Credits Guarantee Department on 28 June 2006 was made in accordance with the old anti-corruption procedures or those which came into effect on 1 July 2006; and which form the company completed. [128473]

Mr. McCartney: The application for cover was made prior to 1 July 2006 on the then-current proposal form. The Indemnity was issued after 1 July 2006 and contained the anti-bribery and corruption provisions which were introduced on 1 July 2006, with cross-references, where appropriate, to declarations in the application for cover.

Contracts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what analysis he has undertaken of the potential impact of outsourcing of business functions abroad on *(a)* employment trends in the UK and *(b)* economic growth in the period to 2011; and if he will make a statement. [120868]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 20 February 2007]:* Current evidence suggests that while there has been

some outsourcing of business functions abroad, this has had little significant impact on UK employment or growth. From 2001 to 2005 UK employment grew fastest in exactly the services, IT and call centres, that were regarded as most likely to be outsourced overseas, although a survey of the UK IT industry last year suggested there may be a small fall in its employment in the UK over the next few years. Therefore, while outsourcing of business functions abroad is generally expected to increase in the future, it is not clear that this will have a significant impact on UK employment or growth.

I do not propose to make any further statement.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130141]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice. This shows that no former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 have since been appointed to public bodies sponsored by the Department.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many meetings his Department's officials held with *(a)* business representatives, *(b)* trade union representatives and *(c)* consumer representatives in 2006. [128749]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's officials held numerous meetings with business, trade union and consumer representatives in 2006 but the number is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Domestic Accidents

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress his Department is making in reducing the number of serious accidents in the home. [125721]

Mr. McCartney: DTI is responsible for the safety of consumer products and we provide the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) with an annual grant of £166,050 to meet the costs of regional safety liaison officers whose role is to provide support—information, advice and training—towards improving the effectiveness of home safety practitioners in the voluntary sector and local government. The grant also helps fund the RoSPA press office, information service and website. DTI also gives RoSPA £60,725 per annum to provide the query service for the HASS/LASS (Home/Leisure Accident Surveillance System) database. DTI Ministers and officials meet RoSPA on a regular basis. DTI does not have a significant role in the prevention of accidents due to causes other than unsafe products.

Drugs: Licensing

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what powers are available to trading standards officers to prevent the marketing to UK mainland consumers of unlicensed medicinal produced by companies based in the Channel Islands; what steps he plans to take to address this issue; and if he will make a statement. [122307]

Mr. McCartney: Medicines licensing is primarily the responsibility of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), ă Department of Health Agency.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Market Towers
1 Nine Elms Lane
London
SW8 5NQ
tel: 020 7084 2000
fax: 020 7084 2353

Export Credit Guarantees: Sakhalin Island

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the uncompleted British elements are of the Sakhalin II project which are still seeking support from the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [127993]

Mr. McCartney: The uncompleted elements include supply of goods and related services in relation to the following:

Offshore Facilities and Pipes
Analyser Metering Package
Equipment and Bulk Materials and Services
Engineering and Detailed Design Engineering
A Component of the Mains Power Generation Package
Integrated Mud Mixing and Solids Control
Cuttings Re-Injection Package
Switchgear and Transformers
Switchgear Package
Maintenance and Integrity Strategy

Hilton Group: Jurisdiction

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what conclusions his Department has reached on its investigation into the proposed implementation of extra-territorial legislation in the territory of the UK by the Hilton Hotel Group and other US companies. [129505]

Mr. McCartney: I welcome the news in Hilton Hotel Group's recent press release that it will not discriminate against customers and potential customers on the grounds of their nationality. The UK Government oppose all assertions of extraterritorial jurisdiction of other states on UK companies.

The European Commission has competence within the European Community for dealing with extraterritorial measures taken by third countries against EU member states. The Commission is considering how best to take these issues forward.

IT: Labour Market

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how average salaries for IT professionals in the UK have changed over the last five years; and how they are expected to change over the next 10 years. [129675]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 March 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how average salaries for IT professionals in the UK have changed over the last five years; and how these are expected to change over the next 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (129675)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for full time employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. This is the standard definition used for ASHE. The ASHE does not collect information on the self-employed and people who do unpaid work.

The attached table shows Gross Weekly Pay, for all full time employees classified as IT professionals for the years 2002-2006. Estimates on how earnings are expected to change are not available.

IT professionals are defined as minor group 213 in the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 - "Information and Communication Technology Professionals". This classification group includes the occupations "IT Strategy and Planning Professionals", for example computer consultants, and "Software Professionals", for example computer programmers.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Average earnings for all full time employee jobs[a] by occupation[b] (United Kingdom)

	Gross weekly pay	
	Median	*Mean*
2002	605	661
2003	618	674
2004 excl	636	693
2004 inc[c]	632	683
2005	656	706
2006	690	746

Notes:

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[b] 'IT professionals'.

[c] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the annual survey of hours and earnings. Figures are preserved both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The true value is likely to be within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

All of the figures on this table have a CV of less than 5 per cent.

The median is the value below which 50 per cent. fall. It is preferred over the mean for earnings data as it is influenced less by extreme values and because of the skewed distribution of earnings data.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households were successful in being awarded low carbon building programme renewable energy grants on 1 March; and at what time on 1 March the March budget was allocated in full. [125859]

Malcolm Wicks: At 9 am on 1 March, the monthly allocation for the household stream opened to new applicants. In less than two hours, we had been successful in allocating £635,340.47 to 189 projects.

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the number of unsuccessful household applications to the low carbon buildings programme in March 2007; and if he will make a statement. [126192]

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households applied for grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme on 1 March; and how long it took for the March funding to be allocated in full. [128221]

Malcolm Wicks: In March 2007, 189 household applicants were successfully awarded low carbon buildings programme grants. It is not possible for us to provide details on the number of unsuccessful online applications. However, as of 26 March, there have been 80 unsuccessful postal applications.

It is important to note that in the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at what time on 1 March the March budget for household installations under the low carbon buildings programme was allocated in full; and how many and what proportion of applicants received grant allocations. [126193]

Malcolm Wicks: At 9 am on 1 March, the monthly allocation for the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme opened to new applicants. In less than two hours, we had been successful in allocating £635,340.47 to 189 projects. It is not possible for us to provide details on the number of unsuccessful online applications. However, as of 26 March, there has been 80 unsuccessful postal applications.

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many paper applications for household grants under the low carbon buildings programme were successful in each month between November 2006 and March 2007; and what advice his Department gives on the application process to households who do not have access to the internet. [126265]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table shows the number of successful postal applicants under the low carbon buildings programme household stream since November 2006.

Month	*Number of successful postal applicants*
November 2006	381
December 2006	165
January 2007	65
February 2007	34

Month	Number of successful postal applicants
March 2007	18

This demonstrates that we have seen a number of successful postal applicants since November 2006. However, where applicants have access to the internet, they are encouraged to apply online.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many household applications were received to the low carbon buildings programme in *(a)* September 2006, *(b)* October 2006 and *(c)* November 2006; and what the total value was of such applications in each month. [126316]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the low carbon buildings programme phase 1, the number of successful household applicants in September to November 2006 is as follows:

	Number of applicants	Value (£)
September	393	785,459.30
October	1,071	1,342,226.50
November	1,051	1,296,116.18

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the total sum required to meet household demand for grants in full under the low carbon buildings programme for the duration of the programme; and if he will make a statement. [126317]

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to increase funding for household installations under the low carbon buildings programme. [126720]

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will *(a)* increase the budget for household grants under the low carbon buildings programme and *(b)* take steps to ensure that funds for household grants under the programme are available throughout each month. [127001]

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will increase the funds available for household grants under the low carbon buildings programme; and if he will make a statement. [127169]

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to ensure that funds available for household grants under the low carbon buildings programme in April 2007 are sufficient to meet demand. [128222]

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to ensure that the low carbon buildings programme is capable of meeting the demand of households for renewable energy capital grants; and if he will make a statement. [128708]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream will be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households in the UK *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were awarded grants under the low carbon buildings programme in (i) 2006, (ii) January 2007 and (iii) February 2007. [126721]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table shows the number of applications received and grants awarded under the low carbon buildings programme household stream in 2006, January 2007 and February 2007.

Period	Number of applications received	Number awarded grants
April 2006 to December 2006	5,103	4,672
January 2007	381	264
February 2007	326	199

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many public sector buildings in the UK *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were awarded grants under the low carbon buildings programme in (i) 2006, (ii) January 2007 and (iii) February 2007. [126723]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table shows the number of applications received for public sector buildings under the low carbon buildings programme in 2006, January 2007 and February 2007.

Phase 1

Period	Number of applications received	Number awarded grants
April 2006 to December 2006	115	0
January 2007	33	0
February 2007	1	0

As we only recently completed our assessment of applications received under the first call of stream two, no grant awards have been made to date.

Phase 2

Period	Number of applications received	Number awarded grants
December 2006	0	0
January 2007	1	0
February 2007	1	0

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether there are plans to increase the budget of the low carbon buildings programme. [126733]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what average number of households per month was receiving grants under the low carbon buildings programme in the 12 months

prior to the introduction of a monthly cap; and how many households were allocated grants on 1 March. [126827]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* Prior to the introduction of the monthly cap, we made an average of 540 grant awards per month to low carbon buildings programme household applicants.

The purpose of the cap was to ensure the resources did not run out before June 2008. In March 2007, we allocated grants to 189 household applicants.

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at what time on 1 March the March funding became available for household projects under the low carbon buildings programme; at what time on that day it was allocated in full; and if he will make a statement. [126966]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* At 9.00 am on 1 March, the monthly allocation for the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme opened to new applicants. In less than 2 hours, we had been successful in allocating £635,340.47 to 189 projects.

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of likely household demand for low carbon buildings programme grants to March 2009; and whether he expects additional funding from the Treasury to be required to meet that demand. [127104]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

We aim to continue funding until June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of monthly grant capping under the low carbon buildings programme on consumer demand for micro-renewables; [127248]

(2) what alternative means of support his Department offers to householders who failed to secure grant support for micro renewable installations under the low carbon buildings programme on 1 March; and if he will make a statement. [127249]

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice his Department is offering to householders who encountered internet access problems while attempting to apply for a grant under the low carbon buildings programme on 1 March. [127253]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date he expects the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme to end; and if he will make a statement. [127251]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

The low carbon buildings programme is a demonstration not deployment programme, and we believe that the current funding made available to the household stream will allow us to meet the key objectives of the scheme.

We aim to continue funding until June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the level of household demand for capital grants under the low carbon buildings programme to March 2009. [127931]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream will be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be reshaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

We aim to continue funding until June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reasons his Department introduced a limit on the amount of capital grants to be allocated to households in any calendar month under the low carbon buildings programme; and if he will make a statement. [127932]

Malcolm Wicks: The purpose of the monthly cap was to ensure the resources did not run out before June 2008.

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream will be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be reshaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact on the UK household micro renewable market of his Department's introduction of a monthly cap for household grants under the low carbon buildings programme. [128719]

Malcolm Wicks: Prior to the introduction of the monthly cap, we made an average of 540 grant awards per month to low carbon buildings programme household applicants.

The purpose of the cap was to ensure the resources did not run out before June 2008. In March 2007, we allocated grants to 189 household applicants.

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be reshaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice he is giving to householders who did not obtain a grant under the low carbon buildings programme on 1 February and 1 March. [128835]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream will be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be reshaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

Overseas Companies: Colombia

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action he is taking to ensure British-based companies fulfil their social obligations when pursuing mining interests in Colombia. [129618]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The Government are a signatory to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. These are voluntary standards of responsible corporate behaviour. UK companies are expected to adhere to the guidelines wherever they operate. Allegations of breaches of the guidelines can be investigated.

Post Offices

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of post offices that will be required for the Post Office to meet the new access criteria that he has proposed. [130375]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No such estimate has been made. Following Government's final decisions, which I expect to announce in May, Post Office Ltd. will develop specific plans for the network which ensure that the access criteria are met. Those plans will also reflect the Government framework of a maximum of 2,500 compensated closures of sub-post offices.

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the reasons were for delaying the response to the consultation on the future of the Post Office from March to May. [130376]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department received over 2,500 representations to its consultation on the Post Office network. We need more time to give full consideration to the comments submitted and hope to be able to announce our final decisions in May.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will assess the merits of appointing a chief engineer to advise the Government on sustainable infrastructure. [130053]

Malcolm Wicks: The role of the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA) is a broad one, covering all scientific, engineering and technological disciplines.

The GCSA, currently Sir David King, has provided advice on a wide range of issues relating to sustainable infrastructure, for example in connection with climate change and energy, and including via previous Foresight projects on Intelligent Infrastructure Systems and Flooding and Coastal Defence, and the current Sustainable Energy Management and the Built Environment project.

Venture Capital: Takeovers

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact of recent takeover activities of private equity organisations on trade, industry and business. [121829]

Mr. McCartney: The Government have not undertaken an assessment of the impact of recent takeover activities of private equity organisations.

The regulatory control of mergers and acquisitions which qualify under the Enterprise Act 2002 is a matter for the relevant independent competition authorities which assess mergers on the grounds of their impact on competition in the market.

Separately, the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers supervises and regulates takeovers in accordance with the rules set out in the Takeover Code. The panel is an independent body which issues and administers the code. The code provides an orderly framework within which takeovers are conducted and so contribute to the integrity of the financial markets. The code is designed to ensure that shareholders are treated fairly and are not denied an opportunity to decide on the merits of a takeover. The code is not, however, concerned with the financial or commercial advantages or disadvantages of a takeover; these are matters for the company and its shareholders.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with his

foreign counterparts on whaling in the last 12 months. [128646]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 194W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: British Nationality

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in which Departments Ministers have the power to designate posts as reserved to UK nationals; how many designations have been made by Ministers, broken down by department; and if she will make a statement. [129718]

Mr. McFadden: Each Minister responsible for a Department has the authority to designate a post as reserved if it meets one of the categories set out in the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007. If a post does not fall within these categories, then it is not capable of being reserved. The Cabinet Office will be collecting information in due course on the number of posts designated by Ministers as reserved.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of Civil Service posts that need to be reserved to UK nationals in the public interest; and if she will make a statement. [129719]

Mr. McFadden: It is estimated that about 5 per cent. (27,000) of Civil Service posts will need to be reserved to UK nationals.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, how many certificates under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955 permitting employment of aliens in the Civil Service are in force; how many there were in 2006-07; and in which Departments those holding such a certificate work. [129724]

Mr. McFadden: Figures for 2006-07 are still to be finalised. For information on earlier years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 314W.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much her Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the subject was of each. [129226]

Hilary Armstrong: Cabinet Office communication group commissioned two sponsored supplements and no advertorials in 2005-06. These supplements were commissioned to promote the 'Transforming Public Services' conference, as part of the UK presidency of the EU and to promote the 10-point diversity plan for the civil service. These were commissioned at a total cost of £44,000.

Departments: Credit Cards

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in her Department have corporate charge cards. [129142]

Hilary Armstrong: There are five staff within the Cabinet Office who have corporate charge cards.

We are currently phasing out the corporate charge card with the intention to replace them with the Government procurement card.

European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* consultations she held and *(b)* representations she received on the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 (i) prior and (ii) subsequent to its introduction; and if she will make a statement. [129714]

Mr. McFadden: The European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 was drawn up after extensive consultation exercises within Government and with the support of the Council of Civil Service Unions. These also involved bilateral meetings between senior officials from the Cabinet Office and those Departments and agencies responsible for 98 per cent. of all reserved posts. Cabinet Office officials continue to liaise with departments and agencies while the new arrangements are being put in place.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps she is taking to publicise the effects of the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 to *(a)* potential civil service recruits and *(b)* the public; and if she will make a statement. [129715]

Mr. McFadden: The civil service recruitment gateway, the guidance on the civil service nationality rules and the civil service management code are currently being revised to reflect the new arrangements under the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 and will be placed shortly on the Cabinet Office website. Central guidance on the new legislation was issued on 6 March by the Cabinet Office to HR directors and chief executive officers throughout the civil service to allow them to amend their recruitment literature.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance she has issued to Government Departments following the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 on the employment of *(a)* non-Irish EEA nationals in a public service reserved post, *(b)* an alien in any civil service post without a certificate and *(c)* an alien spouse of a UK national in the civil service; and if she will make a statement. [129716]

Mr. McFadden: The European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 has no effect on the position of *(a)* non-Irish EEA nationals in public service reserved posts, *(b)* an alien in the civil service without a certificate issued under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955, and *(c)* an alien spouse of a UK national. They remain ineligible.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what Government policy is on employment of *(a)* Commonwealth, *(b)* Irish and *(c)* EEA nationals in the Civil Service, following the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007; and if she will make a statement. [129717]

Mr. McFadden: Commonwealth, Irish and EEA nationals are already eligible to apply for all non-reserved posts in the Civil Service. The European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 defines more clearly the categories of post which may be reserved. It is anticipated that, following the Order, something in the region of a further 70,000 posts in the Civil Service will be open, in addition to UK nationals, to Commonwealth, Irish and EEA nationals.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what assessment she has made of the effect of the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007 on the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of posts reserved for UK nationals; and if she will make a statement. [129720]

Mr. McFadden: It is anticipated that the number of posts reserved for UK nationals will be reduced by about 70,000 following the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007. This represents a reduction of 13 per cent. against the previous number of reserved posts within the Civil Service.

Ministerial Activities

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister without Portfolio what activities she has undertaken in a ministerial capacity in the last 12 months; and what costs were associated with each activity. [129177]

The Minister without Portfolio: My ministerial activities include membership of Cabinet and 20 Cabinet committees, participation in the ongoing policy review process, and involvement and discussion with ministerial colleagues in specific policy areas as appropriate.

The costs associated with these activities are not held separately.

Project George

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will publish the business case for Project George. [129141]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2198-99W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Administration of Justice: Females

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 391W, on the administration of justice: females, whether he plans to make an estimate of the cost implications of implementing the recommendations of the Corston report. [130335]

John Reid: Yes. We welcome Baroness Corston's report and will now be looking at the recommendations in detail. This work will include an assessment of the resource implications of her proposals.

Bronzefield Prison: Foreigners

Mr. Wiltshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners housed in HMP Bronzefield are not British citizens, broken down by nationality. [128402]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of prisoners held in Bronzefield under immediate custodial sentence on 31 January 2007 showing the numbers of non-British nationals can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. It is for this reason that the information on all nationalities is not provided by individual prison establishment, as the numbers are not necessarily accurate to this level of detail.

Prisoners under immediate custodial sentence held in HMP Bronzefield on 31 January 2007

	Number
All	18
Foreign national	42
Not recorded	3
UK national	135

Cannabis

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* over 18 years were (i) cautioned and (ii) convicted by the courts in each of the last five years for possession of cannabis. [130355]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2007]*: Available information relates to persons in England and Wales dealt with under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 of unlawfully possessing cannabis between 2000 and 2004. Figures are in the following table.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Number of persons (a) aged under 18 and (b) aged 18 and over cautioned or found guilty of unlawfully possessing cannabis: England and Wales, 2000 to 2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
(a) Persons aged under 18:					
Reprimands	[1]7213	[1]7,878	[1]8,869	[1]6,220	[1]4,769
Warnings	[1]...	[1]...	[1]...	[1]...	[1]...
Found guilty	3,764	4,383	4,997	5,367	4,111
(b) Persons aged 18 and over:					
Cautions	26,512	24,762	28,941	29,289	15,214
Formal warnings	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[2]27,520 20
Found guilty	28,528	27,903	31,234	33,965	18,850

[1] Separate figures for reprimands and warnings, which replaced cautions for persons aged under 18 in selected areas of England and Wales on 30 September 1998, are not available for 2000 to 2002.

[2] Formal warnings data for cannabis possession have been available since April 2004. Those aged 18 and over who are caught in simple possession of cannabis can be eligible for a police formal warning which would not involve an arrest. Police issued 27,520 formal warnings between April and December 2004.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those convicted by the courts for possession of cannabis in each of the last five years *(a)* received a custodial sentence and *(b)* received a fine. [130356]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2007]*: Available information relates to persons found guilty in England and Wales under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 of unlawfully possessing cannabis between 2000 and 2004. See following table.

Percentage of persons found guilty of unlawfully possessing cannabis who (a) received a custodial sentence and (b) were fined: England and Wales, 2000 to 2004

	Custodial sentence[1]	Percentage Fined
2000	6	52
2001	6	51
2002	5	50
2003	4	50
2004[2]	5	43

[1] Includes suspended sentences.
[2] Formal warnings, which do not involve an arrest or court appearance, were introduced nationally in April 2004 for persons aged 18 and over caught in simple possession of cannabis. Police issued 27,520 such warnings between April and December 2004.

Chemical Weapons

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies his Department has undertaken of the capacity of the UK emergency services to cope with a chemical attack on UK populations and towns. [129168]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office reviews such capacity on a regular and ongoing basis and through a variety of means. These include direct contact with individual area emergency services; exercising of response capability; audits and assessments as part of the Cabinet Office led Capabilities Programme, and analysis of the results of the National Capabilities Survey.

Chemical Weapons: Training

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training exercises have been undertaken by *(a)* UK emergency services and *(b)* UK Government Departments on chemical attacks since 2001. [129169]

Mr. McNulty: Of the large-scale live counter terrorism exercises led by the Home Office since 2001, two have had a specific chemical attack element. In addition to such national exercises, a wide range of regional and local counter terrorism and consequence management exercises (both live and table top) are held each year. The Home Office does not collate details of all of these, nor of exercises involving other Government Departments, and does not therefore have information on the total number of such exercises held since 2001 which may have included chemical attack scenarios.

Community Service Orders: Finance

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average daily cost of supervising an offender on a community order. [127877]

John Reid: For 2005-06 the average annual cost per case for a community sentence (including Suspended Sentence Orders) has been estimated as £3,265. This gives a simple average figure of £9 per day.

As 2005-06 was a transitional year, with sentences running under both the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the previous regulations, this estimated cost should be treated with caution.

Crime Statistics: Somerset

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 189W, on crime statistics: Somerset, how many people were charged with *(a)* possession of illegal drugs and *(b)* possession with intent to supply in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police authority area; and how many of those charged were (i) found guilty and (ii) under the age of 18 years. [125459]

Mr. Coaker: Information on charging for these offences is not held centrally.

Available information relates to persons dealt with under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 by police force area in England and Wales between 1995 and 2004 who were: (a)i found guilty; (b) aged under 18 years and found guilty; (c) cautioned by police; (d) aged under 18 years and cautioned. The information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Crimes against the Person: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were charged with assaulting a police officer in Lancashire in each of the past five years. [127098]

Mr. McNulty: Data on charging are not collected centrally.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts for the offence of assaulting a constable in Lancashire, 2001 to 2005, are shown in the following table.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and convicted at all courts for the offence of assaulting a constable in Lancashire police force area 2001-05[1,2]

	Proceeded against				
Offence description	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Assault on a constable	627	682	733	708	739
	Found guilty				
Offence description	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Assault on a constable	449	494	513	530	547

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Source: RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Crimes of Violence: Police Cautions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cautions for the offence of common assault were issued in 2006. [128173]

Mr. McNulty: Information on cautions given to offenders for common assaults in 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much compensation was granted by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in each of the last five years, broken down by postcode area of the address of the recipient. [127879]

John Reid: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications for compensation have been received by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in the last 12 months; [128431]

(2) how many applicants for compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority have received payments in the last 12 months; [128432]

(3) what the cumulative total is of payments made to applicants for compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in the last 12 months. [128433]

John Reid: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme: Data for the 12 months 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007

	Tariff scheme	*Old (pre-1996) scheme*
New applications received	59,316	0
Applications re-opened on medical grounds[1]	150	53
Number of payments made[2]	33,901	78
Compensation paid (£ million)	171.3	18.9
Total compensation paid (£ million)	190.2	

[1] This records the number of cases re-opened on medical grounds in the 12 months ending 28-02-2007.

[2] This records the number of payments made during the period. If a claim has had more than one payment during the period, it is only counted once. If the same victim has had payments on separate claims during the period, these are counted, but again only once for each claim. The table does not show the number of claimants whose applications are unsuccessful. On average, some 46 per cent. of claimants do not qualify for compensation under the scheme.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps his Department is taking to improve the performance of the Criminal Records Bureau; and if he will make a statement; [129604]

(2) how many people are awaiting the completion of their criminal records check prior to working with children and vulnerable adults; and if he will make a statement; [129605]

(3) what the average time taken was for the Criminal Records Bureau to process a criminal records check for people working with children and vulnerable adults in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [129606]

Joan Ryan: Data concerning the average waiting time taken to complete a disclosure are not a performance target and are not collated by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 93 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days. For January 2007, the CRB issued 99.2 per cent. of standard disclosures and 90.8 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within PSS.

Within these overarching performance standards, there are a number of targets that are the responsibility of the CRB that the Bureau has been meeting consistently.

There are a number of other factors that can affect the timely completion of checks by the CRB, including but not restricted to the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application, the accurate completion of the application form, the clarity of the information provided, the existence of conviction or non-conviction information and the operational effectiveness of the disclosure units of the police forces involved in the enhanced disclosure process.

In order to address these, the CRB has provided more support to all counter-signatories and customers in the form of detailed guidance notes which accompany the application forms to ensure that applications are completed accurately and are accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation. The CRB has also established a rigorous compliance and assurance function to ensure that registered bodies make the best use of the disclosure service.

There have been fluctuations in the performance of some of the police disclosure units, caused by a combination of factors including a significant increase in disclosure applications and a combination of local staffing and IT problems.

However, the police and the CRB have been working closely together to identify ways of tackling these problems in forces, which have included additional resources for disclosure unit managers and a greater degree of monitoring performance and support. These initiatives have been strengthened by a new service level agreement in April 2006 between the CRB and all the 43 forces in England and Wales, which focuses on service delivery. These measures have led to a substantial improvement in the overall disclosure process in recent months.

The CRB has issued approximately 285,000 applications each month in the last six months and as at 23 March 2007 162,826 applications are in progress.

Custodial Treatment: Young Offenders

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under-18 year olds are serving sentences of less than three months; and how many were given sentences of less than three months in each quarter of the last two years. [127576]

John Reid: Following the introduction of the detention and training order nationally on 1 April 2000 under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the minimum custodial sentence length for persons under 18 has been four months.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* (i) arrests and (ii) charges were made and *(b)* convictions were secured under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each London basic command unit in each of the last five years. [128795]

Mr. McNulty: Information on arrests for recorded crime offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is not separately identifiable within the arrests collection held by the Office for Criminal justice Reform. The collection is based on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by main offence group (i.e. violence against the person, robbery, burglary, criminal damage etc.) and at police force area level only.

Information on charging is not collected centrally.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in London, 2001 to 2005 can be viewed in the following table.

The number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in Greater London for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, for the years 2001-05[1,2,3]

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Prosecuted	Guilty	Prosecuted	Guilty	Prosecuted	Guilty	Prosecuted	Guilty	Prosecuted	Guilty
Bow Street	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	10	2	7	5	9	3	8	5	11	5
Greenwich and Woolwich	10	4	9	8	8	9	8	5	4	1
Highbury Corner	7	4	1	1	10	0	3	1	5	3
Horseferry Road	3	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Marylebone	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
South Western	0	1	0	0	3	3	4	3	9	5
Thames	4	2	14	5	10	5	4	2	4	4
West London	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	3
Barking and Dagenham	2	0	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	1
Barnet	4	3	2	2	6	2	7	3	2	1
Bexley	2	0	0	0	1	1	1		3	1
Brent	7	5	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	2
Bromley	2	0	2	3	1	0	2	1	8	3
Croydon	9	5	5	4	10	5	2	1	2	1
Ealing	2	3	1	1	2	1	5	2	2	1
Enfield	2	3	0	1	3	1	1	1	2	1
Haringey	3	2	6	1	3	1	4	4	0	0
Harrow	3	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	0	0
Havering	4	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Hillingdon	3	1	7	4	2	1	7	6	4	4
Hounslow	2	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	3	3
Kingston-upon-Thames	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Merton	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	2	1	0
Newham	0	0	1	0	3	2	4	3	3	2
Redbridge	5	3	4	2	4	2	2	1	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	5	2	4	3	4	4	3	1	2	3
Sutton	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	2
Waltham Forest	4	2	5	5	3	1	1	0	2	1
Total	97	51	86	52	91	47	82	48	80	47

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Prosecutions are counted by date of final outcome in the magistrates court. Guilty figures are counted by the date of sentence in both magistrates courts and Crown courts. Hence guilty figures can exceed prosecutions where they reflect cases of people being Found guilty in the magistrates court and committed for sentence to the Crown court, the two events being counted in two different years.

Source:

JUDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Drugs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to review the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. [129916]

Mr. Coaker: There are no plans to review the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women are in prison for drug offences; how many were in prison for drug offences in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [126435]

John Reid: At the end of January 2007 there were 1,241 women held in prison in England and Wales for drugs offences. On 30 June 1997 the number was 815.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the prevalence of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* cannabis, *(d)* ecstasy and *(e)* amphetamines use in each of the last 10 years. [128098]

Mr. Coaker: Estimates of the prevalence of drug use among the household population in England and Wales are provided by the British Crime Survey (BCS), which has included a comparable self-completion module on drug use since 1996.

The prevalence of self-reported drug use in the past year amongst those aged 16-59 in England and Wales from the BCS is shown in the following table. This shows that use of amphetamines and cannabis has declined significantly since 1998. Cocaine powder use has increased over the same period but most of this increase took place prior to 2000, since when use has remained generally stable.

It should be noted that general population surveys such as the British Crime Survey provide poor coverage of more problematic users, who are more likely to use heroin and crack. These figures are therefore likely to be an underestimate of use of these drugs. A three year research programme is currently underway which will provide us with a better assessment of trends in the prevalence of problematic opiate and crack use in the future.

Table 1. Figures for the proportion of 16-59 year olds reporting 'having used drugs in the last year', 1996 to 2005-06 British Crime Survey

Drugs	*1996*	*1998*	*2000*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Statistically significant change 1998 to 2005-06*
Any Cocaine	0.6	1.3	20.	20.	2.1	2.5	2.0	2.4	[1]
Cocaine powder	0.6	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.4	[1]
Crack cocaine	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	—
Ecstasy	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.6	—
Heroin	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	—
Amphetamines	3.2	3.0	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	[2]
Cannabis	9.5	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.9	10.8	9.7	8.7	[2]
Unweighted base	10,741	9,884	12,771	19,973	23,357	24,197	28,206	29,631	—

[1] Statistically significant increase at the 5 per cent. level.
[2] Statistically significant decrease at the 5 per cent. level.
Note:
From 2001, the reporting year for BCS data switched from calendar to financial years.
Source:
1996,1998, 2000, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 BCS.

Drunkenness: Crime Prevention

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for the *(a)* introduction and *(b)* designation of alcohol disorder zones by local authorities. [129475]

Mr. Coaker: Sections 15-20 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 empower local authorities to designate Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZs) where there is nuisance, disorder or annoyance associated with the consumption of alcohol in the area or the consumption of alcohol supplied in the area which is likely to be repeated. The Act allows the Secretary of State to make regulations enabling local authorities to charge certain licensed premises in ADZs for additional enforcement activity.

The Act requires the Secretary of State to issue guidance to cover the use of ADZs and requires him to consult stakeholders before that guidance is issued. The guidance will be subject to formal consultation shortly. Following the consultation, regulations will be placed before Parliament at the earliest opportunity. The earliest possible date for commencement of ADZs will be 1 October 2007, in line with the Common Commencement Date (CCD) initiative for regulation bearing on business.

Local authorities may designate an ADZ, in their area, following commencement provided that the statutory criteria are met. These include undertaking a 28 day consultation period and an opportunity for licensees to take steps to implement an Action Plan within eight weeks of its publication. The guidance will place ADZs as a last resort intervention.

Fingerprints: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of

the results of the pilot project codenamed Lantern on the use of mobile fingerprint scanners. [129120]

John Reid: The Lantern pilot is still in its early stages and the initial results and feedback received to date indicate that Lantern is delivering the expected business benefits and that officers are finding it easy to operate and a useful tool that they would not want to be withdrawn. Currently results are being returned to the device in less than two minutes with an accuracy rate of approximately 97 per cent. and a hit rate of 40 per cent. (i.e. 40 per cent. of people checked are recorded on IDENT1). This high hit rate reflects the environment in which the devices are being used—proactive, intelligence led policing.

A number of arrests have been made, particularly of disqualified drivers presenting false ID. Lantern has also been used to identify a vehicle occupant who presented a false identity but was wanted by three forces for fraud and ATM card skimming. In another case Lantern played a large part in apprehending a man described by police as 'the most wanted nominal' in the area. In many of these cases the individuals would not have been arrested without the identifications provided by Lantern.

Results indicate that Lantern is showing time savings beyond expectations and hence allowing officers to spend more time on the streets and providing a visible deterrent. Establishing a person's identity at the roadside avoids the need to arrest a person and take them to a custody suite to do this—a process which typically takes about three hours. Early results show that in encounters where officers have reported a time saving using Lantern, the average time saved has been about 90 minutes. There have also been a number of cases where Lantern has provided early identification of deceased persons carrying no ID and hence saved a considerable amount of police and coroners time and also enabled next of kin to be informed sooner. Cases have included fatal road traffic collisions, sudden deaths and suicide victims on railway lines.

Firearms: Imports

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assault rifles and machine guns imported in 2005 from Bosnia, Herzegovina and Croatia have been destroyed. [130154]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Identity and Passport Service: Contracts

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts the Identity and Passport Service has with Whitehead Mann; what the value and remit of such contracts are; and if he will make a statement. [127874]

John Reid: IPS has one Contract with Whitehead Mann to provide executive search Services in relation to the recruitment of Executive Directors. The value of this contract is commercially confidential.

Identity Cards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer from the Minister for Immigration of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1, on identity cards, which 55 countries propose to introduce biometric passports; and which two do not have plans for biometric passports. [127718]

John Reid: My hon. Friend identified 53 countries that have introduced or indicated that they propose to introduce biometric passports (containing a facial biometric image) as stated on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1. Since then, updated research has identified 54 such countries.

These include all 27 member states of the European Union and the following other countries:

Australia
Canada
China
Egypt
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)
India
Indonesia
Japan
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Malaysia
Morocco
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Philippines
Russian Federation
Serbia
Singapore
South Africa
South Korea
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
United States
Venezuela

On the basis of the latest information obtained by the Identity and Passport Service, Brazil, Argentina and the Ukraine do not have plans at present to introduce e-Passports, although such information may be subject to change. We also understand that Mexico does not have any plans at present to introduce e-Passports but does record the fingerprints of individuals prior to the issue of a passport.

Kongra-Gel

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reviews of the ban on Kongra-Gel under anti terror legislation have recently taken place. [129792]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Kongra-Gel was added to the list of proscribed organisations as an alternative name for the already proscribed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in August 2006. A rolling programme of reviews of each of the groups on the list is currently in train; Kongra-Gel has not yet been reviewed as part of this process.

Metropolitan Police: Civilians

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Metropolitan Police civilian staff are based in each London borough. [129461]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are at the Basic Command Unit (BCU) level and are given in the table.

Within the Metropolitan Police force area, borough boundaries are coterminous with BCU boundaries with the addition of the Heathrow airport BCU and the Central Services BCU (Central Services does not have a geographic boundary).

Police staff[1] strength (FTE)[2] by Metropolitan Police force basic command unit[3], as at 31 March 2006

Basic command unit	Police staff
Barking and Dagenham	130
Barnet	171
Bexley	165
Brent	172
Bromley	149
Camden	265
City of Westminster	617
Croydon	203
Ealing	181
Enfield	158
Greenwich	172
Hackney	204
Hammersmith and Fulham	151
Haringey	187
Harrow	108
Havering	128
Hillingdon	145
Hounslow	135
Islington	131
Kensington and Chelsea	224
Kingston upon Thames	104
Lambeth	272
Lewisham	188
Merton	105
Newham	226
Redbridge	152
Richmond upon Thames	116
Southwark	244
Sutton	125
Tower Hamlets	250
Waltham Forest	157
Wandsworth	179

[1] Police staff include police community support officers, traffic wardens and designated officers.

[2] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] In addition to the BCUs which are coterminous with London boroughs, Heathrow airport BCU has 185 staff, and Central Services has 10,640 staff.

National Identity Register

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1752-3W, on the national identity register, what percentage of the *(a)* set up and *(b)* running costs of the national identity scheme will not be funded by fee revenue. [126400]

John Reid: It is intended that the cost of the National Identity Scheme, which includes the National Identity Register, will be primarily funded by fee revenue from the products and services that arise from the scheme.

The schedule of fees for the National Identity Scheme cannot be finalised until *(a)* contracts with suppliers connected to the operation of the scheme are signed and *(b)* the schedule of fees are approved by Parliament. Hence, while funding will still come predominantly from fee income, it is not possible to provide precise details of the proportion of costs that will be not be covered by fee revenue until such issues are finalised.

Offensive Weapons: Greater London

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made concerning weapons offences since the deployment of additional armed police in London in February. [124953]

Mr. McNulty: These data are not collected centrally.

Passports: Applications

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the net cost of introducing interviews into the passport application process. [129873]

Joan Ryan: The estimated cost of providing and running interview offices for the first year of operation in 2006-07 was published on 21 April 2006 in the Identity and Passport Service Corporate and Business Plan.

Police

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to provide ring-fenced funding to police authorities who incur significant costs in the provision of translation and interpretation services; and if he will make a statement. [129623]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The police service in England and Wales has benefited from a significant increase in resources over a sustained period. On a like-for-like basis Government grant and central spending on services for the police will have increased by over 62 per cent. or over £4.2 billion between 2000-01 and 2007-08.

Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that provides an assessment of the relative need of each police force in England and Wales.

Funding for translation and interpretation services is not separately identified. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which aspects of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 he plans to review following his announcement on 6 March; and if he will make a statement. [127762]

Mr. McNulty: A written ministerial statement was made on 14 March 2007 announcing the commencement of a public consultation exercise on the Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984. Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Library and can be obtained from:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/pace-code-intro/

Police Custody

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were placed in police cells overnight in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [127409]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Between 11 July and 20 December 2002 prisoners were held in police cells under Operation Safeguard on a total of 28,650 occasions.

Between 12 October and 22 December 2006 police custody under Operation Safeguard was used on 4,617 occasions.

Operation Safeguard was reactivated on 22 January 2007.

Between 22 January and 9 March it was used on 4,861 occasions.

Police Leadership and Powers Unit

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual salary cost is of the Head of the Police Leadership and Powers Unit. [129182]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* It is civil service policy to disclose salary details for senior civil servants at board level only. These are published in the Annual Home Office Resource Accounts. The head of Police Leadership and Powers Unit is not a board level post.

Police Patrolling

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the proportion of time which is spent by police officers on street patrols. [129496]

Mr. McNulty: I have received a number of representations from hon. Members and from interested parties on all aspects of policing—including the time spent by police officers on patrol.

Police: Age

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2167W, on the age of police recruits, what the average age was of candidates who were appointed as police officers after being successful at the assessment centre stage in each of the years shown. [128827]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Chemical Weapons

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been allocated to police forces to equip themselves to respond to chemical attacks. [129166]

Mr. McNulty: For security reasons, it is our policy not to provide a detailed breakdown of police force funding or spending on counter terrorism activities and specialist equipment.

Police: Defence Equipment

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is responsible for procurement of counter nuclear, biological and chemical protection and detection equipment in his Department. [129167]

Mr. McNulty: The end to end procurement process for any product involves a number of stages and a number of different units within the Home Office and is carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation and Government procurement guidance. Where, following this process, equipment is centrally procured by the Home Office for use in chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incidents, such procurement is managed by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence Directorate of the Home Office.

Police: Employment

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 548-9W, on police: employment, how many police officers worked part-time in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 1979. [129920]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* Part-time working in the police service was only introduced in 1992 and then only on an experimental basis. Following successful pilots in six forces part-time working was put on a statutory footing in the Police Regulations 1995.

Information for the number of part-time police officers for 1997 is set out in the following table.

Part-time officers by force and gender as at 31 March 1997

	Male	Female
Avon and Somerset	1	24
Bedfordshire	0	11
Cambridgeshire	1	14
Cheshire	1	25
Cleveland	1	35
Cumbria	0	11
Derbyshire	1	11
Devon and Cornwall	0	39
Dorset	0	18
Durham	0	8
Essex	5	57
Gloucestershire	0	16
Greater Manchester	1	50
Hampshire	0	33
Hertfordshire	0	34
Humberside	1	44
Kent	0	41
Lancashire	0	22
Leicestershire	4	21
Lincolnshire	0	13
London, City of	0	12
Merseyside	0	24
Metropolitan Police	31	366
Norfolk	0	13
Northamptonshire	3	24
Northumbria	3	42
North Yorkshire	0	17
Nottinghamshire	3	34
South Yorkshire	0	28
Staffordshire	0	23
Suffolk	0	10
Surrey	3	29
Sussex	1	39
Thames Valley	2	60
Warwickshire	0	18
West Mercia	2	0
West Midlands	3	89
West Yorkshire	1	52
Wiltshire	0	8
Dyfed-Powys	2	9
Gwent	1	13
North Wales	1	4
South Wales	1	20

Part-time officers by force and gender as at 31 March 1997

	Male	Female
England and Wales	73	1461

Source: Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate annual returns by police forces.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many black and Asian officers have applied to become a Commander or Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police in the last four years; and how many have been successful. [129059]

Mr. McNulty: In the last four years the Metropolitan Police Authority has held three competitions for Commander posts and four for Deputy Assistant Commissioner posts. For the Commander posts a total of 53 applications were made and 18 officers were appointed. Two of the applicants were from minority ethnic groups; one of those applicants applied on two occasions. Neither applicant was successful.

For the Deputy Assistant Commissioner posts a total of 41 applications were made and 12 officers were appointed. One of the applicants was from a minority ethnic group; that applicant applied on all four occasions but was not successful.

Police: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average Band D police precept on council tax was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* England and Wales in actual prices in each year since 1997. [129451]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Precepts for police authorities in England and Wales since 1997-98

£

Average police precept on council tax (Band D)

	England	Wales	England and Wales
1997-98	55.09	48.89	54.74
1998-99	59.32	57.03	59.19
1999-2000	64.26	65.91	64.36
2000-01	69.30	79.84	69.89
2001-02	77.80	85.54	78.24
2002-03	89.52	93.87	89.77
2003-04	112.16	115.60	112.36
2004-05	125.91	133.34	126.33
2005-06	132.62	138.22	132.95
2006-07	139.97	145.07	140.28
2007-08	147.90	153.03	148.21

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government and Welsh Assembly Government

Police: Misconduct

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration has been given to misconduct proceedings against officers involved in the interception of telephone conversations between Chief Superintendent Dizaei and members of the Black Police Association. [129056]

Mr. McNulty: The question of any misconduct proceedings is an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why an independent review of Operation Helios as recommended by the Morris Inquiry has not been instituted. [129057]

Mr. McNulty: The Morris Inquiry was commissioned by the Metropolitan Police Service and, the implementation of any recommendations is a matter for it and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(c)* has been paid and *(b)* he estimates may have to be paid in the future by the (i) Metropolitan Police and (ii) Metropolitan Police Authority to officers involved in Operation Helios. [129058]

Mr. McNulty: Any payments to officers involved in Operation Helios are matters for the Metropolitan Police and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Police: Pay

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 257W, on police pay, how much overtime was paid to *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* civilian staff in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area. [128873]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* Data on police overtime is produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Police officer and staff overtime for 1997-98 to 2006-07, broken down by police force area is shown in the table. The figure for PCSO overtime is included in the figure for police staff.

Police Officer overtime costs

	Overtime spend £000								
Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	2,835	3,103	4,054	3,443	5,112	7,000	6,899	6,870	5,351
Bedfordshire	1,603	2,132	2,372	2,709	3,992	4,106	4,708	4,693	4,181
Cambridgeshire	2,008	2,681	2,279	2,920	4,102	5,175	4,238	—	3,550
Cheshire	2,946	2,875	3,406	3,175	3,200	4,751	4,361	3,278	3,951
City of London	1,554	1,386	1,934	2,065	2,375	2,602	2,135	2,185	1,955
Cleveland	1,691	1,986	2,713	2,096	2,996	4,035	3,479	2,188	4,038
Cumbria	1,256	1,376	1,865	1,730	2,095	—	2,314	2,201	2,317
Derbyshire	2,108	2,287	3,512	2,718	3,278	4,010	3,542	4,009	3,822
Devon and Cornwall	3,634	3,988	4,653	4,831	7,638	6,441	5,476	6,026	6,566
Dorset	1,606	1,619	1,812	1,976	2,233	2,880	2,790	3,581	3,089

Police Officer overtime costs

	Overtime spend £000								
Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Durham	2,046	2,550	2,835	2,538	3,083	3,151	2,868	3,325	3,158
Dyfed-Powys	1,437	1,504	1,582	1,694	2,017	2,458	1,794	1,936	2,163
Essex	4,983	6,117	7,204	8,798	8,401	10,601	8,678	10,444	10,688
Gloucestershire	1,625	1,826	2,416	2,209	2,337	3,257	3,430	2,766	3,273
Greater Manchester	7,907	8,902	13,999	12,518	15,981	19,438	14,727	16,138	16,226
Gwent	1,788	1,954	2,934	2,993	3,020	3,184	4,077	3,447	4,123
Hampshire	6,016	7,367	8,322	7,109	8,557	11,603	9,703	11,818	11,243
Hertfordshire	2,907	2,806	3,840	7,056	—	9,036	7,494	6,854	6,576
Humberside	3,046	3,304	4,259	4,486	5,760	5,790	5,375	5,896	5,991
Kent	4,984	5,307	6,695	6,941	7,420	10,301	9,523	9,877	11,405
Lancashire	4,006	4,853	3,360	4,772	6,773	9,595	7,758	7,057	7,226
Leicestershire	2,634	2,787	3,122	2,946	3,305	4,404	4,123	4,342	4,720
Lincolnshire	1,781	1,702	2,380	2,945	2,537	3,199	2,193	2,856	2,345
Merseyside	6,372	8,411	9,207	8,848	10,455	11,144	11,637	12,577	12,103
Metropolitan Police	57,483	61,816	83,713	94,930	96,428	112,228	132,815	135,717	150,274
Norfolk	3,260	2,826	3,694	3,848	3,737	3,884	3,653	3,950	3,640
North Wales	1,798	1,798	2,389	2,594	2,740	3,446	3,885	3,403	4,099
North Yorkshire	2,111	2,364	3,048	3,738	3,584	3,534	3,199	3,690	4,889
Northamptonshire	1,865	2,181	2,157	2,197	—	2,688	1,311	2,991	2,246
Northumbria	5,037	5,007	3,970	4,421	4,776	6,217	6,452	7,395	7,736
Nottinghamshire	2,215	2,660	3,567	3,210	4,304	4,626	—	6,782	5,886
South Wales	2,599	2,805	3,845	4,181	3,993	4,977	5,328	6,291	5,002
South Yorkshire	5,011	5,712	6,218	5,605	—	8,097	7,601	8,962	9,467
Staffordshire	3,080	3,347	—	4,664	5,089	7,580	6,241	5,973	6,054
Suffolk	1,304	1,421	1,367	1,760	1,775	1,815	2,031	2,171	2,041
Surrey	—	2,457	3,999	5,028	5,674	6,573	5,676	6,228	6,322
Sussex	3,985	3,753	—	14,418	8,159	6,098	7,971	8,887	8,213
Thames Valley	7,408	6,919	7,713	8,381	12,052	12,006	11,504	12,345	11,810
Warwickshire	1,077	1,372	1,585	1,773	1,811	2,207	1,945	2,279	3,056
West Mercia	2,654	2,896	3,088	3,837	4,495	4,857	4,503	4,491	4,107
West Midlands	8,657	10,283	9,838	11,366	—	18,785	16,637	18,009	23,496
West Yorkshire	6,461	5,365	6,746	7,322	11,839	13,510	10,997	13,549	13,323
Wiltshire	1,408	1,535	2,028	1,850	1,770	1,940	1,440	2,430	1,903

Source:
CIPFA Police Statistics: Actuals 2005/06—1997/98

Police staff overtime costs

	Overtime spend £000								
Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000 -01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	579	443	444	473	690	882	920	839	537
Bedfordshire	314	345	349	274	304	362	333	436	177
Cambridgeshire	177	225	184	179	240	418	309	—	124
Cheshire	207	254	253	240	272	293	351	274	254
City of London	188	194	202	173	237	223	219	262	321
Cleveland	117	172	273	184	306	384	338	132	269
Cumbria	193	172	166	243	398	—	375	357	312
Derbyshire	265	264	307	294	508	567	553	500	471
Devon and Cornwall	457	497	518	633	782	853	807	936	764
Dorset	236	247	293	495	622	376	380	450	215
Durham	238	269	181	204	186	169	182	244	281
Dyfed-Powys	136	119	153	22	130	189	164	193	184
Essex	411	513	613	974	1,193	1,315	1,415	1,296	785
Gloucestershire	146	228	256	201	263	307	300	273	320
Greater Manchester	891	953	1,205	1,561	1,701	1,825	2,052	2,295	1,501
Gwent	450	462	586	726	711	827	1,008	994	268
Hampshire	388	500	944	637	903	1,026	1,130	1,507	1,462
Hertfordshire	154	326	463	655	—	1,050	1,097	1,298	539
Humberside	600	680	762	664	880	979	912	1,018	216
Kent	692	666	819	1,028	1,023	1,389	1,531	1,875	1,225
Lancashire	435	578	623	535	575	791	830	748	569
Leicestershire	—	—	274	304	340	416	394	431	317
Lincolnshire	227	234	333	414	395	462	310	385	288
Merseyside	567	954	1,015	1,367	1,614	1,567	1,667	1,977	1,163
Metropolitan Police	20,103	20,285	12,157	12,480	10,433	12,713	14,864	16,012	25,203
Norfolk	453	351	308	377	486	501	305	503	197
North Wales	197	185	194	233	337	438	515	566	245
North Yorkshire	164	214	297	291	378	418	425	582	636
Northamptonshire	—	39	226	320	—	401	629	685	330
Northumbria	412	407	361	487	494	6,217	1,429	721	900
Nottinghamshire	252	251	290	320	569	564	—	754	—
South Wales	368	362	427	474	512	596	649	869	476
South Yorkshire	199	939	1,024	1,010	—	1,010	1,168	1,201	1,222
Staffordshire	—	320	—	547	451	628	903	666	420
Suffolk	144	128	159	170	199	299	264	397	212
Surrey	—	752	373	549	661	893	878	1,218	856
Sussex	362	382	—	2,529	366	594	765	888	647

Police staff overtime costs

Force	Overtime spend £000 1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000 -01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Thames Valley	955	1,004	1,182	1,256	1,823	1,668	1,831	1,801	1,336
Warwickshire	83	125	136	93	111	249	217	490	48
West Mercia	234	308	358	401	546	503	495	483	328
West Midlands	1,107	1,214	209	1,285	—	1,123	1,693	1,736	1,103
West Yorkshire	1,967	1,877	2,280	2,497	3,021	3,246	3,424	4,661	3,226
Wiltshire	112	135	209	210	175	172	150	327	170

Source:
CIPFA Police Statistics: Actuals 2005/06—1997/98

Police: Standards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police time was spent on frontline duties in each police force area and in each year since 2003-04; and what targets have been set for each police force area. [126433]

John Reid: Front line policing is measured using the Frontline Policing Measure, which is based on the proportion of police officers engaged in front line activities.

Figures for frontline policing are set out in the following table.

The Frontline Policing Measure is not just a measure of visibility. It measures time spent carrying out all core policing duties. Examples of frontline activity include dealing with incidents, visible patrol, searches, dealing with informants, interviewing suspects and special operations.

Full details of the formula used to calculate the measure and complete lists of frontline roles and activities are contained in the "Guidance on Statutory Performance Indicators for Policing 2006/07", published by the Police Standards unit and available at:
http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-publications/publication/performance-and-measurement/SPI_Technical_Guidelines_204.pdf?view=Binary

Copies of this guidance have been place in the House of Commons Library.

Time spent on front-line policing 2003-04 to 2005-06

Front line policing	Baseline year 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Percentage Target 2007-08
Avon and Somerset	54.90	58.96	60.90	63.30
Bedfordshire	63.70	63.33	62.10	68.50
Cambridgeshire	61.70	60.33	70.70	69.30
Cheshire	63.90	57.69	63.40	71.40
City of London	61.80	63.11	69.10	70.60
Cleveland	55.60	53.56	55.20	69.90
Cumbria	59.80	60.99	59.30	66.90
Derbyshire	61.80	62.47	70.30	70.80
Devon and Cornwall	64.90	64.03	63.10	66.50
Dorset	67.10	68.21	68.70	72.00
Durham	58.60	58.98	59.50	67.60
Dyfed-Powys	62.60	64.09	63.30	68.70
Essex	56.90	60.89	62.70	70.30
Gloucestershire	64.70	68.11	66.50	72.70
Greater Manchester	64.10	61.14	61.20	72.10
Gwent	54.40	65.13	60.00	65.60
Hampshire	62.70	67.01	67.30	67.00
Hertfordshire	60.80	62.90	64.20	73.00
Humberside	59.70	57.28	56.60	68.30
Kent	65.30	66.38	67.50	71.10
Lancashire	62.30	64.25	62.50	68.10
Leicestershire	60.00	60.76	67.80	70.40
Lincolnshire	60.00	64.44	66.50	72.30

Time spent on front-line policing 2003-04 to 2005-06

Front line policing	Baseline year 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Percentage Target 2007-08
Merseyside	57.10	51.49	61.40	72.60
Metropolitan Police	65.20	62.38	61.30	65.80
Norfolk	59.80	62.90	66.70	70.30
North Wales	57.20	63.37	63.50	66.60
North Yorkshire	65.80	64.09	64.40	75.60
Northamptonshire	63.50	60.18	65.50	68.80
Northumbria	57.60	61.75	62.50	71.40
Nottinghamshire	59.10	57.65	59.50	73.00
South Wales	61.10	62.02	61.00	73.40
South Yorkshire	63.70	64.88	65.90	70.20
Staffordshire	58.80	61.47	66.60	68.70
Suffolk	62.40	60.63	59.50	68.50
Surrey	61.40	62.20	63.10	69.40
Sussex	59.80	60.58	61.30	68.50
Thames Valley	63.60	59.81	66.10	68.70
Warwickshire	64.90	66.25	66.20	68.80
West Mercia	63.30	62.82	64.60	71.80
West Midlands	62.10	63.64	61.80	73.10
West Yorkshire	62.80	67.35	70.60	66.70
Wiltshire	60.00	63.32	63.10	68.90
England and Wales	62.10	62.30	63.10	70.80

Prison Service: Hepatitis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison officers who are at occupational risk have been required to pay for vaccination against chronic hepatitis B since January 2006. [130569]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Where the risk of contracting hepatitis B is identified prison officers are offered hepatitis B immunisation free of charge.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women were sentenced to custody of less than three months in each of the last five years. [127758]

John Reid: The number of women sentenced to immediate custody of less than three months in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005 is shown in the following table. 2006 figures are due for publication in the autumn.

Women sentenced to immediate custody of less than three months, England and Wales

	Number
2001	2,951
2002	3,254
2003	3,280
2004	3,245

Women sentenced to immediate custody of less than three months, England and Wales

	Number
2005	3,106

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisoners: Pay

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the current average weekly rate of pay is for prisoners. [129973]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service Order 4460, a copy of which has been placed in the Library, devolves responsibility to Governors and Directors of contracted prisons to set rates of pay for their establishment. Central records of individual pay are not kept but, based on total spend, the average rate is approximately £8.00 per week.

Prisons

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 138W, on prisons, what funding has been formally allocated for prison capital works in each of the next five years; what proportion of the 10,000 proposed new prison places this will deliver; and when he expects the formal allocation of the remainder of the £1.7 billion figure to be finalised. [127886]

John Reid: The funding for capital expenditure for the next five years has not yet been formally allocated. It is expected that funding for 2007-08 will be allocated shortly. This will make provision for the capital cost of the programme in that year. Indicative funding for the following three years, 2008-09 to 2010-11, will be allocated during 2007. 2011-12 falls beyond the period of the comprehensive spending review.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1691W, on prisons, how many of the 18 claims have been settled *(a)* out of court and *(b)* in court; what the settlement was in each case; how many of the claims are ongoing; and whether any further claims have been lodged. [127887]

John Reid: The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007 and provided the latest information held by the Department on the issue of compensation paid out to foreign national prisoners.

A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Prisons: Alcohol

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the implementation of the Prison Service policy on alcohol misuse and hazardous drinking. [129972]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The alcohol strategy for prisoners was introduced in 2004. The focus is on improving consistency and building on good practice for the delivery of treatment within existing resources. As resources allow, prisons will look to expand services.

A range of interventions is available in prisons to support those with an alcohol problem:

clinical management—including detoxification—is available in all local and remand prisons;

where alcohol is part of a wider substance misuse problem, the full range of drug interventions is available;

Alcoholics Anonymous run groups in around 50 per cent. of prisons;

an information pack and awareness video is available for all prisoners;

some offending behaviour programmes address offenders' underlying criminogenic factors which occur in alcohol related crime; and

the substance misuse service for all 16-18 year-old prisoners includes a particular focus on alcohol.

Prisons: Computers

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued on the use of Sony Playstations in prisons in the last five years. [126542]

John Reid: Advice was issued to all prisons in December 2005 that the Sony Playstation 3 was barred from the prison estate because of the equipment's ability to send and receive radio signals.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which drugs prisoners are tested during mandatory drug tests. [129915]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All samples collected under the mandatory drug testing programme are tested for the following standard panel of drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabis, cocaine, methadone, and opiates. In addition, prisons can request that individual prisoners' samples be tested for LSD and tests for buprenorphine are conducted at a number of prisons where intelligence indicates it is a problem.

Prisons: Food

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average daily cost for food is per person in prisons directly run by the Prison Service. [129938]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For 2005-06, the last full financial year for which figures are available, the average public sector Prison Service daily food cost per prisoner was £1.93.

Prisons: Mental Health

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many mental health in-reach teams operate within the Prison Service; [129927]

(2) how many prisons have dedicated mental health teams. [129928]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Responsibility for prison healthcare services now rests with the Department of Health.

There are currently 102 mental health in-reach teams working within prisons. Every prison establishment in England and Wales has access to these services.

Mental health services have been a key part of the Government's recent reforms of prison health services and the Department of Health is now investing £20 million a year in NHS mental health in-reach services for prisoners.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* SIM cards were confiscated from prisoners by prison staff in each of the last five years. [129917]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained at disproportionate cost only.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners shared a cell intended for one prisoner in each of the last three years. [129944]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the average monthly number of prisoners doubled up in cells designed for one and the proportion of the prisoner population this represents. There are no instances of more than two prisoners sharing a cell designed for one. The practice of three prisoners sharing a cell designed for one (trebling) ended in 1994.

Doubling information since 2003-04

Financial year	Average monthly doubling[1]	Proportion of prisoners doubled (percentage)
2003-04	16,363	22.2
2004-05	16,878	22.6
2025-06	16,986	22.2
2006-07[2]	17,974	22.8

[1] Figures subject to rounding.
[2] Figures for 2006-07 currently provisional.

Racial Violence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* charges and *(c)* successful prosecutions for incitement to racial hatred were made in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [125576]

Mr. McNulty: Information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The following table shows data extracted from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform in respect of the number of persons proceeded against and found guilty of incitement to racial hatred offences for 2004 and 2005. Prior to 2004, data for these offences were collected as part of a miscellaneous group of offences which cannot be separately identified on the database.

Number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for various offences concerning Incitement to Racial Hatred, England and Wales, 2004-05[1, 2]

		Proceeded against		Found guilty	
Statute	Offence	2004	2005	2004	2005
Public Order Act 1986 S.18	Use of words or behaviour or display material intended or likely to stir up racial hatred.	34	15	2	1
Public Order Act 1986 S.19	Publishing or distributing written material intended or likely to stir up racial hatred.	1	13	—	6
Public Order Act 1986 S.21	Distributing, showing or playing a recording intended or likely to stir up racial hatred.	—	—	—	1
Public Order Act 1986 S.22	Broadcasting or including a programme in programme service intended or likely to stir up racial hatred.	—	2	1	1
Public Order Act 1986 S.23	Possessing a racially inflammatory piece of material	—	1	—	—
Total		35	31	3	9

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Respect Task Force

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the roles and responsibilities are of each person employed by the Department's Respect taskforce. [127350]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The Respect taskforce is a unit that works across Government, based at the Home Office. The taskforce includes a mix of substantive civil servants from the Home Office and other Government Departments, staff with specialist backgrounds in research and communications and practitioners from local government and the voluntary sector who are experienced in front line work to tackle antisocial behaviour, deal with problematic families and establish youth and sport activities.

In addition to the Government's Co-ordinator for Respect, the Respect taskforce consists of a director with three main teams focusing on implementation, policy and communications. These teams are responsible for programme management of Respect action plan commitments across Government, working with local agencies and communities to ensure that the Respect programme is making effective progress on the ground, formulation and development of policy and communication through a range of media, campaigns and events. The Respect taskforce also has a small research function to evaluate action taken.

Seafarers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the use of the Seafarers Identity Documents Convention of the International Labour Organisation in the United Kingdom, with particular reference to the development of an identity card scheme. [115692]

Joan Ryan: The United Kingdom is a party to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention of 1958 (ILO 108). Seafarer Identity Documents (SIDs) issued under this Convention have been issued to British seafarers for many years. ILO SIDs held by nationals of other party

states are accepted by the United Kingdom Immigration Service for shore leave and transit purposes.

SIDs issued under this convention are issued solely for the purpose of facilitating shore leave and transit of seafarers in connection with seafaring activities and, as such, serve a different purpose to national identity cards. The ID cards scheme is intended for those legally resident or working in the UK for a specified period (likely to be three months) or longer.

The United Kingdom is currently evaluating, with other relevant stakeholders, the practicalities of ILO Convention 185.

Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* received an official police warning, *(b)* received an official police caution and *(c)* were arrested under section 132 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 in each month since August 2005. [128743]

Mr. McNulty: Section 132 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 came into force on 1 August 2005.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform show that there were no cautions, final warnings, or reprimands, issued by the police for offences under section 132 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, in England and Wales, in 2005.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn. However, at present I understand from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner that no cautions or final warnings or reprimands have been issued for offences under section 132 in 2006.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally by the Home Office. However I understand from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner that since section 132 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 came into force until the end of December 2006, there have been 91 arrests of individuals for a range of offences connected to demonstrations in the vicinity of Parliament. The commissioner is unable to break down the arrests month by month without incurring additional costs.

Sexual Offences: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many registered sex offenders there are in Shrewsbury and Atcham borough; [125835]

(2) how many sexual and violent offenders as defined by sections 327(3)(c) and (5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 were registered as living in the Shrewsbury and Atcham borough as at 31 March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; [125836]

(3) how many Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPOs) were applied for in *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England between 1 April 2005 and 1 March 2007; and how many (i) interim and (ii) full SOPOs were granted in (A) Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough, (B) the West Midlands and (C) England in that period; [125837]

(4) how many sex offenders in the Shrewsbury and Atcham borough having a registration requirement were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* convicted for breaches of this requirement between (i) 1 March 2006 and 1 March 2007 and (ii) 1 March 2005 and 1 March 2006. [125838]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The available data on the number of registered sex offenders are not collated on a borough or constituency basis. Data on registered sex offenders are collated at multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) area and police basic command unit (BCU) levels within areas. MAPPA areas are co-terminous with police and probation areas. The data are published in (MAPPA) annual reports which are available in the House Libraries and at:

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

Shrewsbury and Atcham borough is not co-terminous with an area or BCU but is covered by data relating to West Mercia area. The following information relates to the number of registered sex offenders in the West Mercia area, as at 31 March 2006:

Category 1

Registered sex offenders	*Number*
South Worcs	174
North Worcs	145
Hereford	106
Telford	95
Shropshire	112
Total	632

In respect of information relating to how many sexual and violent offenders as defined by sections 237(3)(c) and (5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 were registered as living in the Shrewsbury ands Atcham borough as at 31 March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and 2006:

The available information is not broken down to borough level, nor classified in the way requested. Data on all offenders qualifying for multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) are published in MAPPA annual reports and are broken down into three categories. These are as follows [with corresponding reference from the Criminal Justice Act 2003]

Category 1—Registered sex offenders [section 327(2)]

Category 2—Violent and other sex offenders [section 327(3), (4) and (5)] and

Category 3—Other offenders [section 325(2)(b)].

In respect of information relating to the number of sex offenders having a registration requirement in Shrewsbury and Atcham borough who were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* convicted for breaches of these requirements between (i) 1 March 2006 and 1 March 2007 and (ii) 1 March 2005 and 1 March 2006.

The data is not available at a borough level. West Mercia's Area MAPPA annual report for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 shows that 34 offenders were either cautioned or convicted for breaches of notification requirements last year. Caution and conviction data are not collated separately.

	West Midlands region (comprising Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia and West Midlands areas)	*England*
SOPO applied for	49	729
Interim SOPO granted	3	158

	West Midlands region (comprising Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia and West Midlands areas)	England
SOPO imposed by the court	42	857

Special Constables: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables were recruited by the West Midlands police force in each of the last three years. [128853]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 March 2007]*: Figures on the recruitment of special constables are collected by the Home Office, but are not published in the Police Service Strength Bulletin. Recruitment figures exclude specials on transfer from other forces and those rejoining. The figures are in the following table.

	Number
2003-04	174
2004-05	278
2005-06	278

Terrorism

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UN listed terror suspects are *(a)* present and *(b)* suspected by his Department to be present in the United Kingdom. [104665]

Mr. McNulty: United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) and subsequent renewing UN Resolutions, most recently Security Council Resolution 1617 (2005), are directed against Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda and those terrorists and terrorist organisations associated with them. The Resolution imposes restrictive measures, including a travel ban, against those individuals and entities listed by the UN Committee established by UN Resolution 1267(1999). The latest list of individuals (dated 12 December 2006) subject to restrictive travel measures is available at the following website:

http://www.un.Org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been spent on advertising the anti-terrorism hotline since its introduction; [129183]

(2) what the cost was of the full page advertisement for the anti-terrorism hotline in The London Paper on 15 March. [129184]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answers 22 March 2007]*: This is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Service.

Vetting

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bodies are registered for Criminal Records Bureau checks; and how many of these are umbrella bodies. [129178]

John Reid: At the end of February 2007 there were 10,096 organisations registered with the Criminal Records Bureau; of these, 2,429 are umbrella bodies.

Written Questions

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to question 122932, on police stop forms, tabled by the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs on 20 February 2007. [127731]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 675W.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Health Services

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to register healthcare given in Yarl's Wood Detention Centre with the Healthcare Commission. [127632]

Mr. Byrne: The registration of the contracted healthcare provider at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre under the Care Standards Act 2000 is a matter between the provider concerned and the Healthcare Commission.

Young Prisoners

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners aged under 18 years were assessed as vulnerable in each year of the last period for which figures are available. [129940]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows how many young people in custody at the end of February in each year since 2003 were assessed by their Youth Offending Team as being vulnerable. The figures were provided by the Youth Justice Board. (It is worth noting that a substantial number of young people in custody may be assessed as vulnerable on two or more occasions so whole year figures may involve some double counting).

Vulnerability is a concept that embraces a wide range of possible factors, including physical and mental health and other special needs and can include specific risks that a young person may pose to others.

Young people assessed as vulnerable by the youth offending team are not all at high risk. And the degree of vulnerability may change in the course of their period in custody. The youth offending team's assessment is therefore only a starting point. While the most vulnerable young people are accommodated in establishments with high staff-to-trainee ratios, safeguarding arrangements are in place in all establishments.

Young people in secure estate for children and young people at end February assessed as being vulnerable

	Vulnerable young people in custody
2003	960
2004	948
2005	911
2006	1,004
2007	1,160

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 29 March 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1835-6W, on Afghanistan: overseas aid, how much funding each organisation listed in Annexe A and Annexe B received from his Department for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan in each of the last three financial years. [127865]

Hilary Benn: DFID Afghanistan has channelled the following amounts through the organisations listed in Annexe A and Annexe B of the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1835-6W for reconstruction and development in Afghanistan over the last three financial years (broken down by year where available):

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
Annexe A—international organisations				
Aga Khan (£)	700,000	1,700,000	700,000	3,100,000
BBC World Service Trust (£)	—	—	49,595	49,595
BAAG (£)	100,000	158,000	39,000	297,000
Annexe B—local organisations				
Afghan Fertiliser Company (£)	—	—	1,789	1,789
Afghanistan Independence Human Rights Commission ($)	—	—	—	5,700
Afghanistan Information Management Service ($)	4,196	—	—	4,196
Afghanistan National Construction Coordination ($)	63,976	—	—	63,976
Co-operation Centre for Afghanistan ($)	—	—	—	8,380
Helping Afghan Farmers Organisation (£)	—	—	1,336,000	1,336,000
Iriqa Development and Construction Organisation ($)	—	—	—	71,640
Reconstruction Committee for Development of Afghanistan ($)	—	—	—	74,500
Roshan Construction Company ($)	23,547	—	—	23,547
Southern Afghanistan Development Association ($)	—	—	—	95,000
Southern Rehabilitation and Aid Committee ($)	—	—	—	23,000
Tribal Liaison Office (£)	—	—	81,952	81,952

Other organisations listed in Annexe A and Annexe B were funded prior to the last three financial years. DFID Afghanistan also indirectly funds a range of non-governmental organisations as implementing partners of the Government of Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes (e.g. through our support to the National Solidarity Programme).

Cambodia: Forestry

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her Department has made any recent representations to the Government of Cambodia on the subject of reform of the forestry sector. [129563]

Mr. Thomas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 27 March, *Official Report* column 1373.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128038]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not to date advertised on television or radio. Spending on advertising in print media for recruitment and procurement purposes was as follows:

	Spend (£)
2000	751,972
2001	1,208,192
2002	914,571
2003	849,196
2004	700,077
2005	397,776

Figures prior to 2000 and for 2006 are not available.

Spend on promotional campaigns since November 2000	*Total (£)*
(i) Second White Paper on International Development	
To raise awareness of the Government's White Paper "Eliminating World Poverty-Making globalisation work for the poor"	41,945
(ii) Developments Magazine and Rough Guide Campaign	
To promote Developments Magazine and The Rough Guide to a Better World	3,642

Spend on promotional campaigns since November 2000

	Total (£)
(iii) Trade Matters Campaign	
To raise awareness of the role of trade in fighting world poverty and promote availability of a new free publication—Trade Matters.	26,176
(iv) Developments Magazine Campaign	
To increase the number of subscribers to the Department's free magazine—Developments.	12,934
(v) Third White Paper on International Development	
To raise awareness of the UK Government's action plan for working with overseas and international partners to reduce world poverty over the next five years.	125,000
(vi) G8 Gleneagles—One year on	
To report progress on delivering the commitments proposed at the G8 summit.	62,275

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130139]

Mr. Thomas: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice. DFID has made no public appointments of former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128761]

Mr. Thomas: A number of Trade Unions take a close interest in International Development. The Secretary of State for International Development and myself attended a small number of civil society events and forums in 2006 at which Trade Unions were represented, and development issues discussed.

The Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union and the Association of the First Division Civil Servants (FDA) both have members in the Department for International Development. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development and myself held no official meetings with representatives from these unions in 2006 but did meet with PCS union representatives in March 2007.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [128804]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has helped four people to apply for work permits over the past five years.

The work permits were linked to staff appointed in country coming to the UK on short-term learning and development attachments.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to prevent women being trafficked into the UK. [128828]

Mr. Thomas: Poverty and social exclusion make people vulnerable to human trafficking. DFID supports long-term development programmes to help eliminate the underlying causes of poverty.

Most of the poorest people in the world are women and girls. Part of what makes them poor is discrimination because of their gender. DFID is making gender equality a priority across its work. This commitment is set out in our Gender Equality Action Plan. Our programmes are helping to improve the education of girls, and the livelihood opportunities, security and political participation of poor women, so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking.

Iraq: Overseas Aid

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department committed in each year since the invasion to *(a)* water and sanitation projects and *(b)* electrification projects in Iraq. [120236]

Hilary Benn: Since 2003, DFID has spent the following amounts to improve electricity and water and sanitation in Iraq:

£ million

	Electricity	*Water and Sanitation*
2003-04	12.1	10.3
2004-05	6.2	1.6
2005/06	5.2	6.6
2006-07	8.2	3.3

In addition, DFID has contributed £70 million to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRRFI). This has financed electricity, water and sanitation projects across Iraq. We have also contributed £36 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross so that they can provide emergency assistance to Iraqis. This includes access to clean water and sanitation.

Latin America: Debts

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had on debt relief in *(a)* Nicaragua and *(b)* other Latin American countries. [128277]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1999 Nicaragua (US$ 4.5 billion), Honduras (US$1 billion) and Bolivia (US$ 2.06 billion), have all received substantial debt relief through the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative. In

addition, since its implementation last year these countries have also benefited from the 100 per cent. cancellation of debt stock owed to the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank under the multilateral debt relief initiative (MDRI). Last year, the MDRI relieved debts of $968 million to Nicaragua, $1.3 billion to Honduras and $1.75 billion to Bolivia. DFID has monitored the spending of this money through our work with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This helps to ensure that the money gets targeted to items in the budget that directly impact on the poor, such as health and education. We have cancelled all outstanding bilateral debt owed to the UK, including contributing to the debt relief provided under HIPC and MDRI.

Despite good progress on multilateral debt relief, Nicaragua still has about $1.3 billion in outstanding debt from commercial creditors who are not part of either HIPC or MDRI. This debt hinders how Nicaragua can use other debt relief to address poverty, and is subject to 'vulture funds' which buy the debt when Nicaragua is least able to pay, and then press for repayment at several times the debt's face value, when economic prospects are looking better. DFID has just committed $3.5 million to the elimination of this debt, in a deal with the World Bank and other donors. The deal itself reduces the debt to $64 million. The Nicaraguan Government itself will contribute $3.5 million. With contributions from the Government of Nicaragua, World Bank, DFID and others, it is hoped that this will fully eliminate the outstanding commercial debt owed by Nicaragua.

In addition, the Inter-America Development Bank has recently announced debt relief to the five poorest countries in the region. This amounts to $3.4 billion and $1.0 billion of future interest payments from its fund for special operations (FSO). This will provide immediate relief of $1 billion for Bolivia, $984 million for Nicaragua, and $467 million for Guyana among others. However, the UK has abstained from voting on this deal, along with several other European countries. This was because of concerns that the deal would hinder access of the poorest countries to concessionary IADB financing in the future. Access to continued flows of concessionary lending from the FSO of the IADB will be important to the achievement of the millennium development goals in countries such as Nicaragua. The UK is currently in discussions with IADB and other shareholders on this matter.

Nepal

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Nepal. [126272]

Mr. Thomas: DFID, like other international donors, monitors the humanitarian situation in Nepal primarily through the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). UNOCHA provides leadership to and co-ordination of the international humanitarian community, and works with DFID and other international bodies to monitor and respond to emerging and ongoing humanitarian crises. In 2006-07 DFID provided £700,000 to support humanitarian monitoring and co-ordination, and the provision of food aid in response to drought.

Food security problems, particularly related to drought, are severely affecting more than 900,000 people. Health indicators remain at a critical level, with acute malnutrition among children under five having increased to 12 per cent. over the last five years. Protection remains a central issue, including for children directly affected by the conflict. Significant numbers of those displaced during the conflict have been returning—either spontaneously, or with facilitation, though many internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees continue to face protection concerns. 107,000 Bhutanese refugees remain dependent on international aid. In addition to the humanitarian challenges exacerbated by the conflict, Nepal's mountainous terrain means that it continues to be vulnerable to natural disasters including landslides, floods, and earthquakes.

The UN has just launched a Common Appeal for Transition Support which provides a framework for a co-ordinated international response to these issues. The appeal focuses on issues of particular importance in the short term, including food security, health, displacement, disaster preparedness, and protection. DFID is currently examining the appeal document to assess which elements it might support, and will continue to monitor the humanitarian situation jointly with UNOCHA and other partners.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid was provided to Zimbabwe by the UK in 2006-07. [130175]

Hilary Benn: The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors of humanitarian support to Zimbabwe, supporting over 1.5 million of the poorest people. DFID spent £138.9 million bilaterally in Zimbabwe in financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06. Our funding prioritises HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and supporting orphans and vulnerable children. Our current programmes will help ensure that an additional 30,000 people receive anti-retroviral treatment, will provide health care for around 350,000 children, promote food security in both urban and rural areas and assist extremely vulnerable displaced people. The UK does not give direct funding to the Government of Zimbabwe. All DFID's bilateral funding is channelled through NGOs and UN agencies, much of it programmed jointly with other donors. We do not believe in cutting direct assistance to poor Zimbabweans and thus punishing them further for their unaccountable government.

Through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool, jointly funded by DFID, FCO and MOD, the UK supports civil society organisations to promote better governance and human rights. Allocations totalled £2 million in 2006-07 and will be £2.5 million in 2007-08. The British embassy in Harare also supports community groups with small grants (£800,000 per year). The UK contributions to multilateral aid to Zimbabwe (United Nations, European Commission, World Bank and others) totalled £37.5 million from 2000 to 2004 inclusive.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Expenditure

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment has been made of the case for decentralising responsibility for monitoring and regulating campaign and constituency expenditure in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to its regional offices. [130068]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it set out its views on the role of its regional and devolved offices on 19 March in its response to the 11th report from the Committee in Standards in Public Life. This is available in the House of Commons Library and on the Commission's website.

Elections: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the potential change in local government electoral turnout in an elected mayoral system. [130561]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has made no assessment of the potential change in local government electoral turnout in an elected mayoral system.

Electoral Commission

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment he has made of the effect of proposals to allow party members to serve as *(a)* staff of the Electoral Commission and *(b)* Electoral Commissioners on the effectiveness of the Electoral Commission. [130062]

Peter Viggers: In its Eleventh Report, the Committee on Standards in Public Life made recommendations aimed at changing the extent of the statutory restrictions on grounds of political activity on appointment as an Electoral Commissioner, and at reducing the duration of the similar restrictions on appointments to the Commission's staff. The Speaker's Committee will be considering this report soon. I also refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 25 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1868W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Crewe and Nantwich, (Mrs. Dunwoody).

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many staff of the Electoral Commission have worked for the Commission *(a)* for less than one year, *(b)* for between (i) one and two years, (ii) two and three years, (iii) three and four years, (iv) four and five years and *(c)* for more than five years. [130270]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the figures for current staff are as follows:

	Number
(a) less than 1 year	37
(b) (i) 1-2 years	25
(b) (ii) 2-3 years	17
(b) (iii) 3-4 years	26
(b) (iv) 4-5 years	22
(c) more than 5 years	15

Note:
As at 23 March 2007. 'Current staff' includes all permanent and fixed term staff members, but excludes consultants and temporary workers.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

House of Lords: Powers

Andrew George: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 173W, on the House of Lords: powers, what timetable he has set for *(a)* the reconvening of the cross-party talks and *(b)* the setting of a date for a detailed statement on the way forward. [130468]

Mr. Straw: The Government are currently considering the next stages and once discussions are complete I will make a detailed statement to the House.

Political Parties: Finance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Leader of the House what representations he has received on the propriety of front companies acting as conduits to allow anonymous donations to political parties. [130678]

Mr. Straw: I have received many representations on this issue from hon. Members over recent months.

Its importance has also been recognised by Sir Hayden Phillips in his recent report—'Strengthening Democracy: Fair and Sustainable Funding of Political Parties'—where he states:

"Unincorporated associations and companies that make donations to political parties should be required to identify the people involved in making the decisions to give money to the parties."

The Government share this concern and agree that this is an area which would benefit from further consideration.

Written Questions

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals for the electronic provision of answers to hon. Members who ask written parliamentary questions. [129414]

Mr. Straw: The proof of concept database which allows the electronic exchange of parliamentary answers between Government Departments and the House of Commons (ePC) has recently been reviewed by Domain Technologies. The review was funded by the Leader's office and the authorities of the House of Commons.

It is my intention to proceed to the next stage in its development.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Leader of the House if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance detailing the administrative procedure by which written parliamentary questions are *(a)* placed in the Library, *(b)* sent to the hon. Member who asked the question and *(c)* made available to the Press Gallery. [129457]

Mr. Straw: Good practice followed by all Government Departments is that the answers should be available to hon. Members prior to them being distributed elsewhere in the House, e.g. Library, *Hansard*, Press Gallery etc.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Biofuels

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the use of anaerobic digestion of farm waste to create biogas for energy production. [127541]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are committed to making the most of the potential of anaerobic digestion to contribute to a number of our key objectives, notably, reducing greenhouse emissions from waste management and agriculture and improving air and water quality, as well as providing a source of renewable energy.

The UK Biomass Strategy and the national Waste Strategy, both of which will be published later this spring, will set out the important contribution which anaerobic digestion can make to achieving these objectives.

In order to encourage the greater uptake of anaerobic digestion, I am pleased that the Environment Agency has agreed to develop a standard for digestate in 2007-08. This will allow modern regulatory principles to be applied to the use of this material and bring certainty to when this material is considered to be "fully recovered". This should help to facilitate the development of markets for digestate.

Air Pollution: Small Businesses

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department makes available to small businesses on meeting emission targets. [129368]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The Department funds the Carbon Trust, a not-for-profit company that works closely with business to encourage sustainable use of energy, establish energy efficient practices and systems, and develop low carbon technologies.

The Carbon Trust's products and services for small/medium enterprises (SMEs) include an interest-free loan scheme of £5,000 to £100,000 for approved energy saving measures. The trust also provides advice via their website and a dedicated customer call centre, supports various trade bodies that work directly with SMEs and provides site survey visits to companies with energy bills over £50,000.

Animal Welfare

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on the animal welfare enforcement database; [127367]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Home Office, *(b)* the Department for Constitutional Affairs and *(c)* the Information Commissioner regarding the animal welfare enforcement database. [127369]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA Ministers and officials have not yet discussed this issue with the Home Office, the Court Service or the Information Commissioner. However, we do see merit in establishing a central database for enforcers to access information such as details of convictions for offences relating to animals, disqualifications from keeping an animal, and certain records relating to previous licences. At present, there is no central record of those subject to disqualification orders and this is regarded as a significant handicap to effective law enforcement. The database could also contain a register of specialist experts, which would ideally be accessible to enforcers.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he has taken to establish the new arrangements for securing scientific advice on bovine TB following the Government's strategic framework; [130300]

(2) what steps he has taken to implement the proposals put forward by his Department's Science Advisory Council in 2005 for the establishment of a new bovine TB Science Advisory Board. [130301]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are committed to establishing a new bovine TB Science Advisory Body (bTB SAB) to provide independent expert advice, to inform policy decisions on bovine TB issues.

Defra has broadly accepted the recommendations put forward by the Science Advisory Council (SAC) and has had lengthy discussions with SAC members to receive advice on reporting channels, body composition and terms of reference for its proposed bTB SAB. Agreement has been reached to establish an overarching bTB SAB with an independent external chair and membership drawn from existing, strengthened, independent expert advisory subgroups covering all aspects of the bTB science programme.

The Department continues to obtain independent expert peer review at all stages of its procurement and management of research and, last July, a quinquennial review of Defra's Bovine Tuberculosis Research programme was carried out. The report is available on the Defra website.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the purpose is of a disease report form; and how the data collected are used to provide a better understanding of bovine TB; [130302]

(2) what use is made of the data obtained from the bovine TB disease report form; and if he will list the notices, reports and other documents that have been collected as a result of the process. [130304]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 1 January 2005, the TB Disease Report Form (DRF) has been used to collect the information required for dealing with each new TB incident.

When cattle react positively to a TB test, or TB is detected in a carcase or animal, an investigation is initiated into the circumstances of the incident. Information is collected to establish, whenever possible, the origin of infection.

The DRF is used to capture on-farm information, and collate results from the incident. The collection of data and the epidemiological section are used to consider the possible origins of infection and potential risks of further disease spread, set up lists of animals to be traced and identify which neighbouring premises require additional testing.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what data from the bovine TB disease report form is entered into the electronic data retrieval system; how many forms are held by *(a)* the State Veterinary Service and *(b)* his Department; for how long are they retained; and what average time is taken for a veterinary officer to complete a form. [130303]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information in the TB Disease Report Form (DRF) is collated and used by local State Veterinary Service (SVS) Officers to manage TB incidents. At the present time, the majority of the information captured is not normally entered onto an electronic database. However, such information may be routinely captured by other means as part of normal SVS business. The SVS are currently updating their information technology (IT) systems and plan to capture such information electronically in the future.

Information relating to neighbouring farms and cattle movements is used by the SVS to identify cattle 'at risk' of spreading TB. This information is entered into IT systems to trigger TB testing for neighbouring animals or herds. Information such as TB testing results and post-mortem results are taken from other IT systems and added to the DRF.

SVS staff are instructed to initiate a DRF for each TB incident. Between the beginning of 2005 and the end of 2006 there were 7,103 new TB incidents. Records are held by the SVS, not the core Department. DRFs are retained for up to 25 years.

SVS staff initially complete parts of the DRF with the farmer involved, then complete it later at the local office; this can take, in total, between three and four hours. The DRF is subsequently updated with case-related results as required.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations have been received by his Department from *(a)* farmers and *(b)* landowners seeking licences to cull badgers infected with bovine TB. [127583]

Mr. Bradshaw: Natural England has received three applications in the last 12 months under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 section 10(2)(a) for the purpose of preventing the spread of bovine tuberculosis (bTB). These applications resulted in the issue of one licence, which was to permit an animal hospital to euthanase rescued badgers testing positive to bTB. Of the two remaining applications, both from farmers, one application, which was seeking to interfere with a badger sett, was refused after due consideration, while the other application has been placed on hold.

Most TB applications would currently be placed on hold while scientific evidence base is being assessed and organisational questions around possible badger culling are addressed. However, there may be exceptions, for example, applications to euthanase captive badgers testing positive to bTB will still be processed.

Cattle Identification

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been *(a)* seized and *(b)* slaughtered due to inadequate identification in the past 12 months. [129809]

Mr. Bradshaw: Between 23 March 2006 and 23 March 2007, 875 cattle were slaughtered under provisions within the Cattle Identification Regulations on 11 separate occasions. One of these compulsory slaughters accounts for 567 of these animals.

Climate Change

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to Clause 4.8 of the draft Climate Change Bill, by what mechanisms he expects to put into law the climate change framework to drive innovation among domestic firms for low carbon solutions. [129109]

Ian Pearson: Paragraph 4.8 of the consultation document on the draft Climate Change Bill refers to provisions aimed at driving innovation among domestic firms. The Bill provides a clear, credible and (crucially) a long-term legal framework for reducing emissions. This will provide greater certainty and confidence for businesses to be able to plan and make the long term investment decisions needed to drive innovation and to deliver the changes needed to move to a low carbon economy.

The Government hope to receive a wide range of views.

Departments: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department provided in grants for projects in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [129463]

Mr. Bradshaw: In addition to funding given under the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPOS) block of Government grant, the London borough of Bexley has also been awarded other grants for waste management as follows:

Funding type	Funding amount (£)	Funding description	Start date	End date
London waste minimisation and recycling fund	691,000	Fund to improve waste minimisation and recycling in London	1 April 2002	31 March 2004
London waste minimisation and recycling fund	264,076	Fund to improve waste minimisation and recycling in London	1 April 2004	31 March 2006
Grant to relieve spending pressures on waste	122,991	£20 million allocated to LAs according to need to spend on waste services	1 April 2004	31 March 2005
Local authority support unit: direct consultancy support	56,400	Assessment of cross-border use and re-use and recycling centres	1 April 2004	31 March 2005
Waste and resources action programme: civic amenity sites grant	35,000	LA grant scheme round 1 2004-05	1 April 2004	31 March 2005
Local authority support unit: direct consultancy support	40,730	Waste composition audit	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
Local authority support unit: direct consultancy support	19,600	Waste composition audit	1 April 2006	31 March 2007
Waste performance and efficiency grant	175,651	Capital: £98,803.44; Revenue: £76,847.12	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
Waste performance and efficiency grant	459,788	Capital: £229,894; Revenue: £229,894	1 April 2006	31 March 2007

Hazardous Substances: Waste Management

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken on the use of thermal depolymerisation as a process for recycling hazardous medical and sewage waste into fuel. [127544]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has not undertaken any research into the use of thermal depolymerisation as a mechanism for generating fuel or disposing of waste.

Pet Animals

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government plan to ratify the European Convention on Pet Animals. [129968]

Mr. Bradshaw: We recognise that the European Convention has been an important catalyst in raising animal welfare standards. The introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in England and Wales, as well as the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, means that our laws are now consistent with the principles set out in the convention. Nevertheless, there are aspirations in the convention, in particular the resolution on breed standards, which may not necessarily be the most effective way of promoting welfare.

DEFRA is currently working with the devolved administrations to identify the implications of the convention, were the Government to sign it, and areas that may cause mutual concerns.

Rats

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 979W, on rats, if he will break down the rat population in England by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area as indicated by the English House Condition Survey 2001. [129011]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data on rodent infestation in domestic dwellings as revealed by the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) 2001 are broken down by region in the report "Rodent infestations in domestic properties in England, 2001".

My Department does not have data on the rat population broken down by local authority. The EHCS data only provides an estimate of the proportion of dwellings with rat infestations inside or outside. It does not provide definitive data on numbers of rats.

Waste Disposal

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to counteract pollution caused by unauthorised chemical waste dumping; what recent assessment he has made of the extent of such dumping; and if he will make a statement. [129846]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are strict controls on the management and disposal of all wastes, including waste chemicals, and producers of waste have a duty to ensure that it is lawfully managed. Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes it an offence to illegally dispose of waste and carries a maximum penalty of an unlimited fine, or five years imprisonment, or both. The Government have been developing and implementing its waste crime strategy for a number of years now. We will continue to do so as I believe that all forms of illegal waste disposal need to be prevented as far as possible. Where they do happen, incidents and offenders must be dealt with promptly and efficiently by the enforcing authorities.

The Environment Agency (EA) has the leading role in the enforcement of waste regulation and works with local authorities to tackle the fly-tipping of waste. Over the last five years, the EA has been called out to 134 incidents involving organic and inorganic wastes which would include 'chemical wastes'. In 2006, there was a small drop in the number of incidents compared to previous years. At incidents, the EA take action to ensure that wastes are cleared up to prevent harm to human health and the environment.

Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, was set up in 2004 by Defra, the EA and the Local Government Association to record the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the EA and local authorities. There are 15 categories of waste that are recorded on the database but none of these specifically record chemical wastes. However, one category records chemical drums, oil and fuel and, in 2005-06, there were 4,927 incidences recorded.

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with relevant EU directorates concerning the adoption of the composting protocol by the Environment Agency; [129941]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Environment Agency concerning compliance with the Waste Framework Directive (Amendment) 2006 of the agency's waste protocols programme. [129942]

Mr. Bradshaw: The European Commission has been kept informed of the work undertaken by the Environment Agency (EA) and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to develop an end of waste protocol for compost.

Officials from DEFRA and the EA attended a recent seminar by the Commission's Joint Research Centre in Seville to discuss Commission-funded research into a methodology for developing end of waste criteria at EU level.

The EA is a member of the DEFRA project board which is steering the UK input to the negotiations on the proposed revisions to the Waste Framework Directive, under which the Commission has proposed a mechanism to set end of waste criteria for the EU. These negotiations are still in progress. The EA's experience in developing end of waste criteria for compost and other materials should help provide valuable input to future EU discussions.

Waste Management

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1641W to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), on waste management, whether a local authority can unilaterally leave a joint waste authority of its own accord once it has voluntarily decided to join one. [129107]

Mr. Bradshaw: No. As stated in my previous answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1641W to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) the Secretary of State will only be able to dissolve a joint waste authority in two situations: (i) if he/she receives a request to do so from all the appropriate local authorities; (ii) if he/she considers it necessary.

Other models of partnership working are available for those authorities that do not wish their partnership to be placed on a statutory footing.

Whaling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which foreign governments were represented at the recent meeting hosted by Japan to encourage more countries to support their position in the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [130114]

Mr. Bradshaw: All 72 members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) were invited to a recent meeting in Tokyo, known as the 'Normalization' meeting, organised by the Government of Japan. As far as my Department is aware, the following Governments attended the meeting:

Antigua and Barbuda
Cambodia
Cameroon
People's Republic of China
Cote D'Ivoire
Denmark
Dominica
Gabon
The Gambia
Grenada
Guatemala
Republic of Guinea
Iceland
Japan
Kiribati
Republic of Korea,
Mali
Republic of Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mongolia
Nauru
Norway
Oman
Republic of Palau
Russian Federation
Senegal
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and The Grenadines
South Africa
Surinam
Switzerland
Togo
Tuvalu.

The UK, along with 26 other anti-whaling countries, respectfully declined the invitation. While we are grateful to the Japanese Government for trying to further discussions on issues of division in the IWC, we believe this initiative serves to further polarise and distract its members from the important conservation work that the IWC undertakes. Furthermore, the IWC is the only body mandated to

discuss, at plenipotentiary level, issues relating to the conservation and management of whales. The UK therefore considers that the IWC is the only recognised forum in which to hold intergovernmental discussions on whaling.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a list of attendees, with their affiliations, of public events hosted at 10 Downing street in the last two years on European Community matters. [130631]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 788W.

Departments: Silverfish Productions

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Prime Minister what contracts his office awarded to Silverfish Productions Limited in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of those contracts. [128324]

The Prime Minister: As part of World Aids Day 2005, Silverfish Productions Limited produced a video about HIV/AIDS in Malawi, at a cost of £869.

Honours

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister why the reason for the removal of an honour from an individual is not routinely included with the notice of forfeiture placed in the *London Gazette*; if he will make it his policy that such reasons be so included; and if he will make a statement. [130486]

The Prime Minister: The Sovereign may, on the advice of Ministers, cancel an award if the holder is considered unworthy to retain it. It would be unnecessary to repeat this in the *London Gazette* on every occasion of forfeiture.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidelines govern the advance notice to be given of a battalion's flight dates prior to deployment on operations overseas; and if he will make a statement. [130251]

Mr. Ingram: It is established practice that we give all our soldiers the maximum flight notice possible. Battalions are normally notified of the departure date between 10 and 30 days in advance and actual flight timings are notified at least 10 days in advance.

There may be occasions where unavoidable factors, either operational or aircraft related, result in further changes to the day or time of a flight. In all cases, battalions are contacted as soon as changes appear likely.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 626, on training, what steps he is taking to address consequences for the training of troops of the operational tempo. [130592]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence constantly assesses the impact of operational pressures on the force structure and adjusts programmes accordingly. To accommodate the training for current levels of operational deployment, the focus of training across defence, particularly in the land and air environments, has shifted towards training for specific operations rather than for general contingencies. Training for general contingencies continues, however, to form a significant part of Commander Joint Operations' exercise programme, which ensures that the knowledge and experience required to command and control such operations is maintained over time.

Armed Forces: Working Conditions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to how many days rest and recuperation a soldier serving on operations is entitled after *(a)* four, *(b)* six, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* 12 months active duty is entitled. [130071]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* Rest and Recuperation (R and R) is not leave and is to be taken at a time, location and duration specified by the operational commander. R and R may only be granted to individuals or units on periods of continuous operations in excess of four months. The maximum permissible period for each instance of R and R is 14 nights inclusive of travelling time. The number of permissible periods of R and R is dependent upon expected tour length and is subject to the following restrictions:

Over four months (120 days) but less than seven months (210 days)—one period of R and R.

Over seven months but less than 11 months (330 days)—two periods of R and R.

Over 11 months—three periods of R and R.

Army: Publications

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the summer 2006 report of the Chief of the General Staff's briefing team. [124497]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* A copy of the Chief of the General Staffs briefing team summer 2006 report will be made available in the Library of the House.

Merlin Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Merlin Mark 1 helicopters are *(a)* in service, *(b)* under repair and *(c)* being cannibalised; and if he will make a statement. [128260]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1437W.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Britten Norman Defender 4S AL Mk1 aircraft have been procured; and how many of these have been delivered to Iraq for use by the Army. [130325]

Mr. Ingram: Four Britten Norman Defender AL Mk1s have now been procured and delivered for use by UK Joint Forces.

All four aircraft have now served in Iraq. To allow for scheduled maintenance, modification/upgrade programmes and/or training requirements only two of the aircraft may have been operational at any one time.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the acquisition cost was at 2006 values of the Britten Norman Defender 4S AL2 Mk1 aircraft procured by the army; and what the estimated hourly running cost is of these aircraft. [130326]

Mr. Ingram: The acquisition cost of a Britten Norman Defender AL Mk1, based on the Economic Conditions of mid 2006, was in the order of £4.5 million.

The estimated hourly running cost during 2006 is £1,500 per hour.

Military Fatalities: Iraq and Afghanistan

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatalities were sustained by UK armed forces resulting from improvised explosive devices attack on *(a)* USA RG31 vehicles and *(b)* Canadian RG31 Nyala vehicles in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each of the last two years. [130016]

Mr. Ingram: There have been no fatalities sustained by the UK armed forces in USA RG31 vehicles or Canadian RG31 Nyala vehicles during the last two years in Iraq or Afghanistan, as a result of improvised explosive devices.

Tucanos

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which versions of the Tucano are operated by the Royal Air Force; what the acquisition cost was of each aircraft; and what the average total operating cost is per hour of Tucanos operated by the Royal Air Force. [130015]

Mr. Ingram: The version of the Tucano operated by the RAF is the T Mark 1 for which the full acquisition cost for each aircraft was just over £1 million. The total cost per funded flying hour for the Tucano T Mark 1 is £5,411.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the acquisition costs were of *(a)* the unmanned aerial vehicles deployed by the UK in Afghanistan and *(b)* the coalition unmanned aerial vehicles to which the UK has operational access in Iraq. [130024]

Mr. Ingram: The acquisition costs of the Desert Hawk mini unmanned aerial vehicles deployed by the UK to Afghanistan were around £1.8 million. We do not comment on the costs of equipment acquired by coalition partners such as the unmanned aerial vehicles to which we have access in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Zimbabwe: British Nationality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans his Department has put in place to evacuate British citizens in the event of a crisis in Zimbabwe. [130591]

Des Browne: With the FCO, the Ministry of Defence conducts periodic reviews of contingency plans that provide support to the FCO for Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations of British citizens from a range of countries, including Zimbabwe. Should the situation in Zimbabwe deteriorate to the extent that the FCO decides to evacuate British citizens, the MOD would provide assistance to the FCO if requested.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure her Department's economical use of paper. [129011]

Vera Baird: My Department has set in place a contract that provides recycled paper for printing and copying. In addition to this our HQ has piloted a successful paper recycling scheme. Best practice from this pilot is being used to assist development of the Department's waste strategy and action plan.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by her Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130147]

Vera Baird: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. These show that no former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 have since been appointed to public bodies sponsored by the Department.

Sir Hayden Phillips: Pay

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how, and at what rate, Sir Hayden Phillips was remunerated for undertaking the inquiry into the funding of political parties; and how much he has been paid to date for that work. [130481]

Bridget Prentice: Sir Hayden Phillips was appointed by the Prime Minister to conduct a review of the funding of political parties in March 2006.

Sir Hayden Phillips' gross rate of pay for conducting the review was £700 per day, paid through the DCA. The total amount that he has been paid to date (up to the end of February 2007) has been £40,100 gross.

Politics and Government: South West Region

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what distinct constitutional status applies to *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the Isles of Scilly, *(c)* the Cornish people, *(d)* the Duchy of Cornwall, *(e)* the Council of the Isles of Scilly, *(f)* Cornish stannary organisations and *(g)* any other Cornish or Duchy based institution which does not apply to England; [123754]

(2) what *(a)* treaties, *(b)* Acts of Parliament, *(c)* regulations and *(d)* statutory instruments provide distinct status to (i) Cornwall and (ii) the Isles of Scilly which does not apply to England. [123755]

Bridget Prentice: The Government addressed the question about the constitutional status of Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, and the Duchy of Cornwall on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1892W. The position of the Council of Isles of Scilly is recognised in UK legislation where it applies to the Isles. On the question about stannary organisations, there are no valid Cornish stannary organisations in existence. It is noted that stannary courts were abolished under the Stannaries Court (Abolition) Act 1896.

Cornwall has always been an integral part of the Union. There are no treaties today that apply to Cornwall only. With the exception of geographically limited matters such as Private Acts of Parliament for infrastructure works, Acts of Parliament, regulations and statutory instruments apply in Cornwall as they do throughout England, but do not always apply to the Isles of Scilly. There is no special status for legislation which applies to Cornwall or to Cornish localities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Animal Welfare: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which animal welfare organisations benefited from National Lottery funding in each of the last five years; and how much each received. [130495]

Mr. Caborn: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost as animal welfare organisations are not a separate category on the Department's Lottery Grants Database.

The Big Lottery Fund does not support animal welfare groups, but it does support some charities involving animals.

The Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) key focus for funding animals is through the conservation of priority UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) species and priority UKBAP habitats. As HLF is concerned with the conservation and recovery of the UK's most endangered animals and not the general wellbeing and welfare of animals, HLF has not funded, as far as we are aware, any animal welfare organisations.

Details of individual Lottery awards appear on the Department's Lottery Grants Database, which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors and can be searched at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

Consultation Papers

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 903-4W, on consultation papers, what fee she expects to be paid to the Work Foundation for the creative economy project. [130379]

Mr. Woodward: The agreed cost of the Department's contract with the Work Foundation for their contribution to the creative economy programme is for a sum not exceeding £84,000 (excluding VAT). The terms of the contract will be reviewed in the light of the actual demands of the programme.

Departments: Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which industry summits her Department has *(a)* hosted and *(b)* co-hosted with other Government Departments in each of the last five years; what policy initiative each summit was associated with; and what the cost of each such summit was. [130381]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has an ongoing programme of meetings with industry representatives from across all of its sectors. A relatively small proportion of which have been specifically termed Industry summits'. The most recent examples of these are the events being held to inform the Creative Economy programme and those which were held on ticket touting issues. In these cases, the costs incurred (in addition to those for internal administration) are as set out in the table.

An analysis of all of the industry summit' events held over the last five years, the policy initiative each was associated with, and the cost of each, could only be provided at disproportionate expense.

Event	*Programme*	*Date*	*Cost (£)*
icket touting	Ticket touting	20 April 2006	0.00
Access to finance	Creative Economy programme	25 April 2006	0.00
Competition and IP	Creative Economy programme	24 May 2006	531.69
Technology	Creative Economy programme	12 June 2006	0.00
Diversity	Creative Economy programme	29 June 2006	408.00
Infrastructure	Creative Economy programme	6 July 2006	0.00
Ticket touting	Ticket touting	17 July 2006	0.00
Education and Skills	Creative Economy programme	19 July 2006	376.00

Event	Programme	Date	Cost (£)
Music	Creative Economy programme	13 June 2006	3500.00
Computer games	Creative Economy programme	18 July 2006	2300.00
Publishing	Creative Economy programme	4 September 2006	400.00
Ticket touting	Ticket touting	8 February 2007	0.00
Broadcasting	Creative Economy programme	7 March 2007	0.00
Film	Creative Economy programme	12 March 2007	271.58
Architecture	Creative Economy programme	14 March 2007	406.50
Music	Creative Economy programme	19 March 2007	0.00
Publishing	Creative Economy programme	20 March	0.00
Software	Creative Economy programme	21 March 2007	0.00
Computer games	Creative Economy programme	21 March 2007	0.00
Design	Creative Economy programme	22 March 2007	68.80

Film

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 904-5W, on film, what the budgets are for the summits on *(a)* software, *(b)* games, *(c)* design, *(d)* performing arts, *(e)* advertising and *(f)* fashion. [130378]

Mr. Woodward: In addition to internal administrative costs, an overall budget of £1,000 has been allocated to cover the incidental costs of the current round of 12 industry summits being held to inform the creative economy programme. Support for these events also forms part of the Department's contract with the Work Foundation.

Summits have been held on broadcasting, film, architecture, music, publishing, software, computer games and design. Further summits are planned on advertising, fashion, the performing arts and arts, antiques and crafts.

Gaming Clubs: Energy Consumption

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the small, large and regional casinos recommended to her by the Casino Advisory Panel will be required to use energy saving light bulbs in and around their premises. [129002]

Mr. Caborn: Any new casino development will be required to comply with relevant planning and building requirements, including relevant requirements designed to protect the environment and promote energy saving.

Hotels: Taxation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations have made written representations to her Department on taxation on hotel accommodation in the last 12 months. [130580]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS has received 57 written representations on this subject since 1 March 2006. These include four submissions to the Department's Welcome>Legacy consultation which raised the matter of an accommodation tax. A significant number of proforma letters, written as part of the Caterer and Hotelkeeper's campaign against an accommodation tax, were sent to the Prime Minister and forwarded to the Department.

These representations were received from tourism and hospitality trade associations, individual businesses, local authorities, representatives of attraction businesses, Members of Parliament and public and private sector partnership organisations.

Since the publication of Sir Michael Lyons' report on 21 March, the Government have stated there is no intention to introduce a local bed tax.

Internet

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when she expects a new text-based labelling system for internet sites to be introduced; [129174]

(2) what studies have been commissioned by her Department on the *(a)* feasibility and *(b)* cost of introducing a text-based labelling system for internet sites. [129175]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has not commissioned any studies. The independent regulator Ofcom has a duty for media literacy in the Communications Act 2003. In pursuit of the duty Ofcom have been developing proposals for a common labelling framework.

I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to write with more details. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Licensed Premises: Safety Measures

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on the use of plastic glasses in licensed premises. [130127]

Mr. Caulker: I have been asked to reply.

Other than previous debates in the House and representations made by individual MPs on behalf of their constituents, no specific representations have been made by the drinks industry or other stakeholders on the use of plastic in licensed premises. The Licensing Act 2003 already provides for the police to apply for licence reviews and for conditions to be attached to licences. For example, that the licensed premises should use toughened drinks glasses and bottles. The Violent

Crime Reduction Act 2006 will in due course also provide a new fast track alcohol licence review process that could lead to such conditions being applied in cases of serious crime and disorder. We are also committed to reviewing the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England that was published in March 2004, later this year.

Licensing Laws

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many licencees have had their licences revoked since the Licensing Act 2003 came into force; [130384]

(2) how many licences have been *(a)* challenged and *(b)* placed under review due to the selling of alcohol to minors. [130383]

Mr. Woodward: We do not hold this information. However, extrapolating from data collected by the Department in November 2006 from a small sample of licensing authorities, we broadly estimate there were around 600 completed licence reviews in the first year of the new regime which resulted in approximately 100 licences being revoked. Sales or attempted sales to persons under 18 would have been a factor in a number of those cases.

Public Libraries

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the percentage of the population that used a public library in each of the last five years. [130405]

Mr. Lammy: The information necessary to estimate the percentage of population using public libraries in England across the whole period sought by my hon. Friend is not held centrally.

The DCMS 'Taking Part' cultural participation survey shows that 48.2 per cent. of all adults in this country visited at least one library during 2005-06. However, this was the survey's first reporting year so we do not have comparable information for previous years. Neither does this figure include library usage by children and young people under 16.

The Public Library Statistics, published annually by the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) show that the following percentages of people in England borrowed at least one item from a public library ("active borrowers") in the period 2001-02 to 2005-06:

	Active borrowers as a percentage of total population
2001-02	27.6
2002-03	26.2
2003-04	24.8
2004-05	23.0
2005-06	22.2

The table, although focused on individual users, only reflects the number of people that used the library to borrow an item including books, DVDs and CDs. It does not take account of those people who used a library for other purposes such as reading a book or newspaper on the library premises, attending a reading or learning group or accessing information (whether in paper or online form). Increasingly, public libraries are becoming wider community resources that offer an increasing range of services.

The following table, shows the average number of visits to libraries in England per head of resident population in England as well the total number of visits overall.

	Average number of visits to libraries in England per head of resident population	*Visits overall (000)*
2001-02	5.5:1	270,775
2002-03	5.5:1	274,053
2003-04	5.7:1	285,365
2004-05	5.8:1	288,382
2005-06	5.8:1	290,979

Tickets: Touting

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with industry on the illegal selling of tickets to events. [130516]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has hosted four separate meetings with key stakeholders from the ticketed events' industry over the last year to discuss the problems associated with ticket resale, to identify solutions to those problems and work continues. Only the resale of tickets for designated football matches, the resale of tickets for the London 2012 Games and the trading of tickets on the street without a licence are illegal.

Illegal activity is a matter for enforcement agencies to take appropriate action.

Tourism: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the potential effects on the *(a)* Hartlepool economy and *(b)* Hartlepool tourist and culture sector of the 2010 Tall Ships event. [130907]

Mr. Woodward: This Department has made no such assessments. However, the national marketing organisation, VisitBritain, has worked with previous Tall Ships venues in the past (such as Newcastle Gateshead in 2005) to promote the event and will offer its support to Tall Ships Hartlepool 2010.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants facilities in Hartlepool will be able to apply for in connection with the 2010 Tall Ships event. [130908]

Mr. Woodward: This Department provides no such grants. However, the national marketing organisation, VisitBritain, will work with organisers to promote the event and One NorthEast, the regional development agency for the North East of England, will consider applications for support.

Tourism: North East Region

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists visited *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region and *(c)* the North East region in each of the last five years. [130891]

Mr. Woodward: The following tables show the number of visits to the North East from (i) UK residents (with an overnight stay) and (ii) overseas residents, for the latest years for which data are available. Data for Tees Valley are only available for inbound visits and no information is available at a constituency level.

Domestic overnight visits[1]

Thousand

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
North East	4,300	4,500	4,800	3,800	4,640

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which are thought to be an under-representation of the true position.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

Inbound visits

Thousand

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Tees Valley	45	47	60	50	52
North East	440	529	505	539	590

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

In addition, account should be taken of the number of day visits made to, or within, the North East. The Leisure Day Visits Survey in 2002-03 recorded a total of around 30 million tourism day visits to destinations in the North East. It is not possible to provide a time series for this information as the surveys are run intermittently.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children: Conferences

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which conferences targeted at schoolchildren were funded by the EU in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [130670]

Bill Rammell: I am not aware of any conferences in the UK targeted at schoolchildren that have received funding from the EU.

Connexions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on the Connexions service in each year since it was established; and how many people received advice from the service in each of those years. [130648]

Mr. Dhanda: Connexions was introduced in a staged way from April 2001. The following table provides information on the budgets and numbers of interventions with young people for each year since the service's inception. The intervention data are included as information on the number of people receiving advice is not collected.

	Connexions budget (£ million)	*Careers Service budget (£ million)*	*Interventions*
2001-02	151	173	1,257,437
2002-03	378	52	3,090,000
2003-04	455	—	3,656,000
2004-05	470	—	3,908,000
2005-06	475	—	4,264,000
2006-07	476	—	[1]—

[1] Not yet available

Notes:
1. The above figures reflect the staged way in which Connexions was introduced.
2. Young people also receive support from Connexions through group activities and events and from Connexions Direct, none of which are included in the above intervention figures. There are over 130,000 visits per week to the Connexions Direct website, with around 6,000 contacts per week to the helpline.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128009]

Mr. Dhanda: An environmental housekeeping policy, published on the Department's internal website, promotes economical use of paper through advice to reduce printing to essential only, printing double sided documents, using the phone or email to contact people and circulating papers instead of sending out copies.

DFES is currently implementing electronic management of records storage and on-line delivery of services which will transform the way our services are managed and delivered by helping to reduce the need for hardcopy paper production and handling.

The programme of upgrading to printers and multifunctional devices that allow double sided printing is in progress as part of planned improvements to flexible working arrangements in our Headquarters offices.

The Department has implemented a sustainable operations management system to help it meet sustainable development in Government targets. The system contains a strategic site-specific action plan on waste reduction and management for each of its headquarters offices.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people have been in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA) in each London local authority since its introduction; and how many were in receipt of EMA in 2005-06. [128672]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the education maintenance

allowance (EMA) for the DfES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 28 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked; "How many young people have been in receipt of educational maintenance allowance (EMA) in each London local authority since its introduction; and how many were in receipt of an EMA in 2005-06."

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

National EMA was phased in over time to successive 16 year old age groups. 2004/05 was the first year of National EMA and therefore we can only give data for 16 year olds in that year.

The attached tables show EMA take-up data for each London Local Authority area during each academic year since the scheme's inception.

I hope you find this information useful.

Area type	Area name	Scheme take-up 2004/05	2005/06	2006/07 to end February 2007
National	England	297,259	429,627	503,741
Region	London	50,896	70,480	79,303
LSC	London, Central	11,171	14,043	1,528
LA	Camden	1,550	1,749	1,886
LA	Islington	1,682	1,976	2,090
LA	Kensington and Chelsea	325	691	849
LA	Lambeth	2,791	3,406	3,666
LA	Southwark	2,647	3,138	3,469
LA	Wandsworth	1,607	1,948	2,103
LA	Westminster	569	1,135	1,465
LSC	London, East	18,871	24,229	26,335
LA	City of London	18	64	70
LA	Greenwich	2,161	2,479	2,672
LA	Hackney	2,841	3,262	3,444
LA	Lewisham	2,575	2,945	3,201
LA	Tower Hamlets	3,265	3,626	3,748
LA	Barking and Dagenham	1,408	1,917	2,196
LA	Bexley	834	1,552	1,826
LA	Havering	821	1,498	1,641
LA	Newham	3,774	4,601	4,823
LA	Redbridge	1,174	2,285	2,714
LSC	London, North	7,292	10,622	12,192
LA	Barnet	1,044	2,198	2,667
LA	Enfield	1,337	2,639	3,338
LA	Haringey	2,508	2,984	3,243
LA	Waltham Forest	2,403	2,801	2,944
LSC	London, South	4,253	8,332	10,235
LA	Bromley	936	1,698	1,983
LA	Croydon	1,375	2,874	3,646
LA	Kingston-Upon-Thames	370	706	867
LA	Merton	613	1,261	1,617
LA	Richmond-Upon-Thames	359	683	790
LA	Sutton	600	1,110	1,332
LSC	London, West	9,309	13,254	15,013
LA	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,247	1,429	1,524
LA	Brent	2,744	3,349	3,577
LA	Ealing	2,682	3,158	3,273
LA	Harrow	849	1,785	2,213
LA	Hillingdon	883	1,695	2,123
LA	Hounslow	904	1,838	2,303

English: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 800-1W, on English language teaching, (1) if he will assess the merits of using the skills and materials available in the learning English section of the BBC World Service to maintain the accessibility of online/distance learning English for Speakers of Other Languages courses; and if he will make a statement; [120255]

(2) when he expects to reply to Question 120255, on the BBC World Service and English language teaching, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 6 February. [130508]

Phil Hope: There are a wide variety of materials and resources to support the learning of English and we would encourage those that are effective and of high quality.

The Skills for Life Strategy has implemented national standards for adult literacy and numeracy and all provision eligible for funding as basic skills has to be mapped to these. The standards are reinforced and supported by national core curricula for literacy, numeracy, ESOL and ICT which provide a context within the learning environment. Learners wishing to improve their English skills should follow approved courses based on the Skills for Life national standards and curriculum and which lead to nationally recognised qualifications.

We recognise the value and potential of delivering English language online and via distance learning and we are currently investigating this area.

Mathematics: Secondary Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of mathematics lessons in mainstream maintained secondary schools is observed by Ofsted, broken down by school year group. [129708]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 28 March, 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what proportion of mathematics lessons in mainstream maintained secondary schools is observed by Ofsted, broken down by separate school year group.

The number of mathematics lessons that take place in schools nationally is unknown and therefore the proportion observed by Ofsted cannot be calculated. I am able to report that one in seven lessons observed by inspectors in mainstream secondary schools in 2005/06 was a mathematics lesson. The details are broken down by year group in the table beneath.

Proportion of lessons observed in maintained secondary schools which were mathematics lessons

Year group	Percentage
7	14
8	15
9	14
10	14
11	15
12	8
13	9
All	14

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Nurseries: Qualifications

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the viability of playgroups in circumstances where staff of those groups are found by Ofsted to have insufficient qualifications. [130067]

Beverley Hughes: Ofsted regulates to the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding and makes a judgment about whether all managers, staff and volunteers have the appropriate experience skills and ability to do their jobs. National Standards 1 and 2 of the sessional care standards sets the qualification requirements for playgroups. Where providers do not currently meet these requirements Ofsted will normally accept an action plan showing how they intend to fulfil them and over what timescale, and monitor progress at the next inspection.

Public Sector Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in his Department and its executive agencies; and if he will make a statement; [113816]

(2) when he will answer Question 113816, on public sector pensions, tabled on 5 January 2007 by the hon. Member for Yeovil. [120260]

Mr. Dhanda: The cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) of the pensions of the 10 highest paid departmental employees at 31 March 2006 was £4,340,480.00. This includes the CETV of the members of the senior management team named in the Department's remuneration report, which is published annually and which is in the public domain. The Department has no executive agencies.

Special Educational Needs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what recent representations he has received on the availability of textbooks for blind, partially sighted and dyslexic children in accessible formats; and if he will make a statement; [130337]

(2) what assessment he has made of the availability of textbooks in formats accessible to blind, partially sighted and dyslexic children; [130338]

(3) what steps he will take to improve blind, partially sighted and dyslexic children's access to books in accessible formats in the next two years. [130339]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department regularly discusses the provision it makes for children with special educational needs and disabilities through the SEN and disability frameworks with key stakeholders both in the voluntary sector and across Government, including support for visually impaired and dyslexic children. A central record is not kept of the approaches made to the Department on individual issues.

We continue to invest significant resources to support the education of children with SEN and disabilities—some £4.5 billion in 2006/07. It is for schools and local authorities to plan to improve access to the curriculum and written materials for disabled pupils over time and the Disability Equality Duty requires schools them to promote disability equality.

To assist the provision of materials in accessible alternative formats for blind, partially sighted and dyslexic

children specifically, the Government supported the Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002 which reduces delays in gaining copyright clearance to produce books and other printed materials in formats accessible to visually impaired people. The Department of Trade and Industry is also working on a feasibility study to look at opportunities for publishers to provide education material in accessible formats more quickly and this Department is involved in the process.

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many hours of training on average were undertaken by participants in the Train to Gain programme; [123390]

(2) what percentage of participants in the Train to Gain programme received no training as a result of first stage assessment; [123391]

(3) what percentage of participants in the Train to Gain programme have received training of more than *(a)* 60 hours, *(b)* 70 hours and *(c)* 100 hours; [123392]

(4) what percentage of the Train to Gain programme budget has been spent on *(a)* training, *(b)* accreditation and *(c)* skills brokers. [123393]

Bill Rammell: Train to Gain is an ongoing service and as such performance is updated on a regular basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom the LSC chief executive has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his replies has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 28 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent parliamentary question about the number of hours Train to Gain learners take to achieve qualifications.

As the majority of learners take more than 6 months to achieve a qualification, there is currently only a small amount of data available to use in responding to this question.

However, analysis of nearly 10,000 learners starting in the period April-July 2006 who have now completed their training shows the average number of hours to be about 33 hours.

I hope this response is helpful to you.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 12 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent parliamentary question about what percentage of participants in the Train to Gain programme budget is spent on (a) training (b) accreditation and (c) skills brokers.

The Learning & Skills Council is not clear what is meant by the terms 'training' and 'accreditation' as used in this question. However, the following details of 2006/07 budget expenditure may answer the question:

Provision i.e. paid to providers to train employees to achieve a qualification. = 68% of budget.

Skills Brokerage including broker training and accreditation to new national standards in business advice = 11% of budget.

I hope this response is helpful to you.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 12 March 2007:

I write in response to your Parliamentary question asking what percentage of participants in the Train to Gain programme have received training of more than (a) 60 hours (b) 70 hours and (c) 100 hours.

Train to Gain has been available nationally since August 2006. The use of the term 'training' in the question is unclear as it could cover a wide range of activities. LSC collects data on the number of hours learners spend on training programmes working towards qualifications. As the majority of learners take more than 6 months to achieve a qualification, there is currently only a small amount of data available to use in responding to this question. Based on 7,103 records to date, the breakdown is:

(a) 60-70 hours = 4%

(b) 70-100 hours = 10%

(c) 100 hours + = 1%

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 12 March 2007:

I write in response to your Parliamentary question asking what percentage of participants in the Train to Gain programme received no training as a result of first stage assessment.

The Learning & Skills Council is unable to respond to this question without clarification as the term 'first stage assessment' is not recognised. It is also unclear whether the term 'participants' refers to employers or employees.

If you can clarify this point, we would be happy to respond.

Written Questions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, when he expects to answer Question 110609, on young people in London, tabled by the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green on 18 January. [130602]

Mr. Dhanda: The hon. Member's question will be responded to by the Department for Work and Pensions. The question was transferred on 26 January.

Young People: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the UK is taking under the EU Youth in Action programme (EU budget code 15 01 04 55); and if he will make a statement. [130658]

Bill Rammell: The EU Youth in Action Programme started on 1 January 2007 and will run until 31 December 2013. I have appointed Connect Youth, part of the British Council, to manage the programme in the UK and to maximise the take up by eligible young people in this country.

Youth Opportunities

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the degree to which the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital funds are reaching the disadvantaged young people in Greater Manchester following submission by local authorities of reports to the Government Office in the North West. [129981]

Mr. Dhanda: Local authorities are required to report to Government offices on delivery of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds on a six monthly basis. The first six monthly reports received at the end of October 2006 provided evidence predominantly on set up of the funds in each area. As a result, levels of participation by disadvantaged young people in the funds are not identifiable. The second reports due at the end of April 2007 will include full

management information on participation, and will provide information on how the funds are reaching disadvantaged young people in each local authority.

TRANSPORT

A21: Compulsory Purchase

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Highways Agency plans to issue compulsory purchase orders along the A21 between Flimwell and Robertsbridge. [130594]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 425W.

Aerodrome Charges

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to consult on how to determine the interests of persons who live in the area in which an aerodrome is situated in determining the use of his powers under the Civil Aviation Act 1982 to fix charges. [129998]

Gillian Merron: Section 1 of the Civil Aviation Act 2006 inserts a new section 38 into the Civil Aviation Act 1982. Subsection 5 of this section requires that where the Secretary of State is considering whether to exercise his power, conferred by subsection 4, to direct an airport operator to fix its charges by reference to aircraft noise or emissions, he must

> "have regard (among other things) to the interests of persons who live in the area in which the aerodrome is situated".

We do not plan to consult on a general process for determining those interests. Rather, we recognise that the interests will depend on specific local circumstances. If the Secretary of State were to consider the use of section 38(4) in a specific case, we would expect a public consultation giving local authorities, amenity groups, the airport's Consultative Committee, other local interest groups and individuals an opportunity to make their views clear. Decisions following consultation would depend on the merits of the case.

Aircraft

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the aircraft for the use of the Prime Minister will be ready to enter service; and what the estimated whole life cost of such aircraft is estimated to be. [125931]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport plans to introduce the new air travel service as early as possible, consistent with best procurement practice and the need to deliver value for money and appropriate levels of safety, security and reliability. The timetable for delivery will depend upon the contractual arrangements and the lead-in times needed by suppliers to meet the new requirement.

Sir Peter Gershon's "Independent Air Travel Review" estimated that the new service would cost between £104 million and £107 million in net present value terms over a ten year period. This compares with a cost of £98 million over the same period of continuing with the existing arrangements. Sir Peter Gershon's Review calculated that such an arrangement would add no further burden to the public purse.

British Transport Police: Community Support Officers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many British Transport Police community support officers were based in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last five years, broken down by location of post. [130937]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Bus Services: Grants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid to bus operators through the Bus Service Operators Grant in each year since the grant was introduced. [130058]

Gillian Merron: Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) was introduced under the Transport Act 2000. It replaced the Fuel Duty Rebate scheme which had been in place since 1965.

The amount of BSOG paid by the Department to operators of local bus and community transport services since 2000 is as follows:

	£ million (cash prices)
2000-01	301
2001-02	304
2002-03	317
2003-04	341
2004-05	359
2005-06	369
2006-07	[1]380

[1] Estimated.

Cycleways

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on cycling facilities in local authority areas *(a)* in London and *(b)* in England outside London in each year since 2000-01; what his expectations are for future spending; and if he will make a statement. [129400]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department provides a central budget for cycling programmes and initiatives. Since 2005-06 this has been the responsibility of Cycling England and investment in cycle facilities is as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	2.2
2003-04	2.2
2004-05	10.5
2005-06	3.2
2006-07	6.0

In 2000-01 and 2001-02 the budget was revenue spend on promotion of cycling.

The majority of expenditure on cycling is committed by local highway authorities who receive funding from the Department through the Local Transport Plan settlement and it is for them to determine their priorities. English authorities outside London have informed the Department that their investment in cycle facilities for each year is as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	29.6
2002-03	39.9
2003-04	32.1
2004-05	40.0
2005-06	34.1

London boroughs also receive funding from the Department via a block settlement through Transport for London (TfL) and with their other revenue streams TfL has informed the Department that their investment in cycling facilities for each year since 2001-02 is as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	12.5
2002-03	11.6
2003-04	12.7
2004-05	13.1
2005-06	18.3

The Department does not require local authorities to provide an estimate of future spend on cycling so no data are available for 2006-07 and 2007-08. TfL though have informed the Department that they forecast £24.1 million will be spent on cycle facilities in 2006-07 and £36.1 million in 2007-08. Cycling England forecast that their expenditure on cycle facilities in local authority areas in 2007-08 will be £3.8 million to be spent in the cycling demonstration towns and on 'Links to Schools'.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [130010]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not sponsored newspaper or publication supplements in fiscal year 2006-07. We have however purchased advertorial space to reinforce specific campaigns as follows:

Campaign	Cost (net) (£)
THINK! Road safety campaign: Mobiles phones	50,000
THINK! Drink Drive	162,000
THINK! Driving for Work	57,000
Transport Direct	73,183
VOSA Automatic Number Plate Recognition/Weigh in Motion Sensors	6,000
DVLA Electronic Vehicle Licensing	2056.25
DVLA Continuous Registration	3,300

Departments: Golden Arrow Communications

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions Ministers in his Department have had with Golden Arrow Communications; and if he will make a statement. [130791]

Gillian Merron: Since 2005, Ministers have attended two events organised by Golden Arrow Communications.

As part of the consultations on the Department's review of ports policy, the Minister of State accompanied by officials attended a lunch on 18 July 2006 to hear the views of ports and shipping interests.

On 21 February 2007 both Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State attended a parliamentary reception at which one spoke about the Government's broad transport priorities.

In addition Ministers have attended conferences, receptions and other such events not organised by Golden Arrow Communications but at which individuals employed by them may have been present. No record is kept of such encounters.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have held with Golden Arrow Communications since 2005. [129825]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Since 2005, Ministers and officials have attended several events organised by Golden Arrow Communications.

An official gave an introductory address about the Department's review of ports policy at a seminar on 5 July 2006. As part of the consultations on that review, the Minister of State accompanied by officials attended a lunch on 18 July 2006 to hear the views of ports and shipping interests.

On 21 February 2007 both Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State attended a parliamentary reception at which one spoke about the Government's broad transport priorities.

In addition Ministers and officials have attended conferences, receptions and other such events not organised by Golden Arrow Communications but at which individuals employed by them may have been present. No record is kept of such encounters.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130135]

Gillian Merron: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. This shows that no former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 have since been appointed to public bodies sponsored by the Department.

Departments: Railways

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were employed by his Department with a responsibility for rail transport in each year since 2002. [128919]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport was established in May 2002. The number of people employed with a specific responsibility for rail transport including Rail Accident Investigation Branch (operational from October 2005) and the transfer of the Strategic Rail Authority's responsibilities (from July 2005) for each year since 2002 were:

	Rail directorates	*Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB)*	*Total*
May 2002	70	—	70
April 2002	72	—	72
April 2004	84	4	88
April 2005	90	36	126
April 2006	219	45	264

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Manpower

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers working for the Government Car and Despatch Agency in each of the last five years were *(a)* male and *(b)* female. [124612]

Dr. Ladyman: Drivers working for the Government Car and Despatch Agency in the last five years were as follows:

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
2006-07	213	12	225
2005-06	208	10	218
2004-05	198	8	206
2003-04	210	10	220
2002-03	211	12	223

The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing a range of transport and mail distribution services to Government and the wider public sector.

The Agency's Diversity Action Plan 2006-11, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House, includes a target to increase the number of women, disabled and black minority ethnic employees by 2011.

M42: Motorway Service Areas

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish correspondence between the Highways Agency and Shirley Estates on the proposed motorway service area at junction 4 of the M42. [130472]

Dr. Ladyman: Correspondence between the Highways Agency and Shirley Estates on the proposed motorway service area at junction 4 of the M42 is ongoing. As this correspondence refers to work in progress it is not appropriate to publish it at present. The conclusions reached as a result of this correspondence will be included in the Highways Agency's proof of evidence to be presented at the public inquiry and this document will be in the public domain at the appropriate time.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the correspondence between the Highways Agency, Birmingham International airport and Swayfields with regard to the proposed motorway service area between junction 5 and junction 6 of the M42. [130473]

Dr. Ladyman: Correspondence between the Highways Agency, Birmingham International airport and Swayfields on the proposed motorway service area between junction 5 and junction 6 of the M42 is ongoing. As this correspondence refers to work in progress it is not appropriate to publish it at present. The conclusions reached as a result of this correspondence will be included in the Highways Agency's proof of evidence to be presented at the public inquiry and this document will be in the public domain at the appropriate time.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the progress of negotiations between the Highways Agency and Shirley Estates with regard to the proposed motorway service area at Junction 4 of the M42. [130474]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is not negotiating with Shirley Estates with regard to the proposed motorway service area at Junction 4 of the M42. As part of the planning process the Highways Agency has a duty to cooperate and act reasonably in considering proposals coming forward. No conclusions on the acceptability of the proposals have been reached.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the progress of negotiations between the Highways Agency, Birmingham International Airport and Swayfields on the proposed motorway service area between Junction 5 and Junction 6 of the M42. [130475]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is not negotiating with Birmingham International Airport and Swayfields with regard to the proposed motorway service area between Junction 5 and Junction 6 of the M42. As part of the planning process the Highways Agency has a duty to cooperate and act reasonably in considering proposals coming forward. No conclusions on the acceptability of the proposals have been reached.

The Highways Agency has been working with Birmingham International Airport Limited and the National Exhibition Centre on options for improving motorway access from the M42 to their developments. A Joint Statement produced by the Highways Agency, Birmingham International Airport Limited and the National Exhibition Centre regarding options for improving motorway access from the M42 was read out and given to the inspector at the pre-inquiry meeting on 19 March 2007.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how his Department monitors the registration and taxing of vehicles in their home non-EU or EEA countries when the vehicles have been in the United Kingdom for more than 12 months. [129072]

Dr. Ladyman: This Department does not monitor the registration and licensing status of non-EU or EEA vehicles that may be circulating in the United Kingdom.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to change the required frequency of MOT tests for new vehicles. [130617]

Dr. Ladyman: We will be consulting shortly on options for the future conduct of the MOT scheme—and specifically about the frequency of testing—following a recommendation that we do so in the Davidson Review of the implementation of EU legislation. This consultation will include a full discussion of the potential advantages and disadvantages of making any change to test frequency.

Public Transport: Concessions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of total central Government support for the English concessionary fares scheme *(a)* was distributed for 2004-05 and *(b)* is forecast to be distributed to (i) the Scottish Executive, (ii) Transport for London, (iii) the Welsh Assembly, (iv) the Council of the Isles of Scilly and (v) local authorities where there are no bus services in each of the next five years. [129354]

Gillian Merron: In 2004-05, as now, the funding for statutory concessionary fares in England was one of the services supported through formula grant, which comprises Revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend the money on any service. Because of the method of calculation, particularly floor damping (which guarantees local authorities at least a minimum percentage increase by scaling back increases for other authorities), it is not possible to say what has been given to each local authority for any particular service.

Up to an extra £250 million per year will be provided for the national bus concession from April 2008 (this includes Barnett consequentials which will be paid on this in line with statement of funding policy). Eligible residents of the Isles of Scilly will be entitled to national bus concession, and so the Isles of Scilly will be receiving a share of the extra funding.

The Department, in discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG's) and HM Treasury, is looking at a number of options for distributing the existing and future funding. The options will be discussed through DCLG's Settlement Working Group and, if appropriate, formally consulted upon during the summer.

Rail Franchises

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish *(a)* the cost benefit analysis and *(b)* the appraisal summary table taking account of the five objectives outlined in the New Approach to Appraisal prepared by his Department prior to the (i) award of the Greater Western franchise, (ii) award of the South Western Trains franchise and (iii) specification for the new Cross Country franchise. [117125]

Mr. Tom Harris: In respect of the Greater Western and South Western franchises, the Department for Transport determined the value for money case for the specification at the stage prior to issuing the Invitation to Tender (ITT) to bidders. This includes the preparation of cost-benefit analysis tables, and an assessment of the wider benefits. Therefore, the information does not exist in the form that has been requested at the award stage.

The bids for the New Cross Country franchise have been submitted and are currently under evaluation. At the point of awarding the franchise, the Department will review whether the value proposed by the leading bidder to deliver the specification outputs exceeds that prepared at the time of the issue of the ITT.

Railways

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* locomotives, *(b)* multiple units, *(c)* freight wagons and *(d)* carriages were in use on the rail network in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by (i) train operating company and (ii) class. [128589]

Mr. Tom Harris: Tables giving details of the number of locomotives, multiple units and carriages used by franchised passenger train operators, broken down by train operating company and class has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Not included are vehicles operated by Scotrail (for which the Scottish Executive is responsible) and non-franchised operators such as Network Rail, open access and charter operators. Information on the number of freight vehicles used on the network is not held by the Department.

This information is based on latest available data but variations in the figures can be expected due to short term vehicle hiring, introduction of new fleets, withdrawal of older vehicles and cascades.

Railways: Capital Investment

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to improve the railway network over the next three years; and what capital improvements of over £10 million each are planned to start in that period. [126865]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improvements in capacity and performance are being achieved through the record investment the Government are making in the railway. Two projects in particular—the West Coast Main Line upgrade and Channel Tunnel Rail Link Stage 2—are due to be completed in the next three years. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State also announced,

earlier this month that a thousand new carriages will be introduced on some of the most congested routes in the country.

The High Level Output Specification, due to be announced in the summer of this year, will set out other Government's requirement for railways from 2009-10 and subsequently.

Railways: Fares

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how train fares have changed on average over the last 10 years; and what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of people travelling by train. [129677]

Mr. Tom Harris: Fares regulated by the Department for Transport cost on average 2 per cent. less in real terms today than in 1996. In that period, passenger numbers have grown by over 40 per cent. with more than a billion passenger journeys on the railway for the first time since 1959.

Railways: Franchises

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what adjustments he has made to his Department's working assumptions on future projected revenues from rail franchise premium payments following the collapse of the GNER franchise. [124832]

Mr. Tom Harris: We do not specify the levels of premium or subsidy payments that bidders may propose in franchise competitions. The Department maintains a close review of the current and projected future financial health of currently operating franchises.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* role and *(b)* actions his Department has taken in the development of the Strategic Rail Authority's policy towards large-scale railfreight interchanges. [130798]

Mr. Tom Harris: On 14 October 2005 the Department for Transport issued a statement regarding the status of the Strategic Rail Authority's Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy. This statement still represents the position of the Department. Both documents are available in the rail freight section of the Department's website.

Railways: Hastings

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with train companies on the Hastings to Charing Cross train line. [130593]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have had no specific discussions with either Southern or Southeastern about the Charing Cross to Hastings line. However I, and my officials, have regular discussions with both train operators about performance and other issues.

Railways: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train journeys were cancelled in each year between 1997 and 2006, broken down by train operating company. [122382]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail. For a response, the right hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Railways: Tees Valley

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to fund the development of a Tees Valley metro system. [130896]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has no plans to fund the development of a Tees Valley Metro system and has received no request to do so.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of funding an extension of the Tyne and Wear Metro system to incorporate South Durham and Hartlepool in its network. [130897]

Mr. Tom Harris: It would be for the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority and Executive, and not central Government, to investigate the feasibility of any such extensions to the Metro system. The Department is not aware of any such plans.

Railways: Thames Valley

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2131-2W, on railways: Thames Valley, if he will place in the Library *(a)* copies of the information provided to his Department by First Great Western of their (i) assessment of and (ii) plans to meet passenger demand to and from Maidenhead and Twyford and *(b)* his Department's analysis of those proposals. [127989]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not publish contents of bids on the grounds of commercial confidentiality. The Department's analysis of franchise bid information provides the basis for further clarification and any subsequent negotiations with bidders. Publication of officials' assessments would be prejudicial to the department's commercial interests.

The Greater Western Franchise Agreement contains details of the franchisee's ongoing obligations in relation to capacity and is available on the Secretary of State's public register. The register can be consulted on application to the Department.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2131-32W, on railways: Thames Valley, what First Great Western's ongoing obligations are in relation to capacity as defined in the Greater Western Franchise. [127990]

Mr. Tom Harris: The obligation for capacity in the First Greater Western (FGW) National Rail Franchise Terms requires that the Franchisee use reasonable endeavours in planning its timetable and the rolling stock diagrams needed to implement it, to provide passengers with a reasonable expectation of a seat off peak and within 20 minutes of boarding during the peak period.

The Greater Western Franchise Agreement is available on the Secretary of State's public register. The register can be consulted on application to the Department.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1574W, on Railways: Thames Valley, what changes to the timetable and consequential amendments were agreed between the Secretary of State and FGW during their discussions in February and March 2006 on the December 2006 timetable; and what changes and amendments were refused by either party. [130240]

Mr. Tom Harris: The changes which were agreed between the Secretary of State and First Great Western ('FGW') are set out in Appendix 11 of the FGW franchise agreement. The agreement is available on the Secretary of State's public register. The register can be consulted on application to the Department.

No potential changes or amendments in relation to the Thames Valley were refused.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1574W, on Railways: Thames Valley, if he will set out the figures for the established passenger loads during the stated time periods for journeys from, and to, Maidenhead and Twyford stations. [130263]

Mr. Tom Harris: The data referred to in the previous answer are contained in the "Market, Service and Review Report" produced for the Strategic Rail Authority in June 2004. A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Road Traffic Offences: Insurance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on using Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and motor insurance databases in conjunction with automatic number plate recognition equipment to detect uninsured drivers. [130045]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 26 March 2007]*: There has been good progress and I refer to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Warley (Mr. Spellar) on 22 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 93-4W. Since that date the police are continuing to use automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) equipment to detect uninsured drivers with excellent results.

Road Works: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers local authorities have to charge utility companies for street works; and if he will make a statement. [130572]

Gillian Merron: Currently, local authorities do not have any powers to charge utility companies for carrying out works in the highway. A highway authority may make charges under s74 of New Roads, and Street Works Act 1991, if works are unreasonably prolonged.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 introduces powers that allow highway authorities to operate a permit scheme for all works in the highway, on which undertakers will be charged. Regulations have been drafted for the implementation of permit scheme and were the subject of a consultation that closed on 26 February. The draft Regulations will be revised to take account of consultation responses and will be laid before the House for debate this summer.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road traffic accidents occurred in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997; [130939]

(2) how many accident blackspots have been identified in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex; and what steps his Department has undertaken to reduce the number of accidents in such locations. [130940]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of reported personal injury road accidents in Eastbourne and East Sussex (excluding Brighton and Hove) in each year since 1997 is given in the table.

Number of reported personal injury accidents in Eastbourne and East Sussex, 1997 to 2005

	Eastbourne	*East Sussex*[1]
1997	279	1,989
1998	338	2,040
1999	335	1,991
2000	320	1,941
2001	308	1,737
2002	356	1,823
2003	343	1,811
2004	309	1,720
2005	306	1,703

[1] Includes Eastbourne but excludes Brighton and Hove

There is no standard definition for an accident blackspot. The assessment of local accident blackspots is a matter for the relevant local highway authorities.

Roads: Construction

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost was of building a mile of *(a)* motorway, *(b)* trunk road grade dual carriageway, *(c)* trunk road grade dual carriageway and *(d)* an extra lane on a motorway in each of the past 10 years. [124831]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table lists the average cost per kilometre in real terms of building motorways, dual carriageway trunk roads and an extra lane to existing motorways, provided by publicly funded major schemes for the last 10 years.

The ranges of cost reflect the different types of projects delivered in each year since 1996. Seven projects were delivered in 1999-2000, two of which included tunnels. One project adding lane capacity was completed in 2001-02 and the majority of its cost was in strengthening an existing bridge.

£ million

	Motorways (Cost per km in real terms)	*Trunk dual (Cost per km in real terms)*	*Motorway widening (Cost per lane km in real terms)*
1996-97	n/a	n/a	8.1
1997-98	10.5	13.9	4.3
1998-99	n/a	22.6	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	55.8	n/a
2000-01	20.9	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a	34.9
2002-03	n/a	4.8	n/a
2003-04	13.7	5.9	14.4
2004-05	n/a	5.4	2.4
2005-06	n/a	4.6	6.8

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost of building a kilometre of road lane was in each year since 1997. [125978]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table lists the cost per kilometre in real terms of building road lanes on the strategic roads network in each complete year since 1997.

The ranges of cost reflect the different types of projects delivered in each year since 1997. Seven projects were delivered in 1999-2000, two of which included tunnels. Only one project adding lane capacity was completed in 2001-02 and the majority of its cost was in strengthening an existing bridge.

	Cost per lane km in real terms (£ million)
1997-98	2.8
1998-99	4.4
1999-2000	10.2
2000-01	2.7
2001-02	34.9
2002-03	1.2
2003-04	2.6
2004-05	1.6
2005-06	3.5

Rolling Stock

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to seek to release rolling stock stored at Eastleigh onto *(a)* Great Western and *(b)* South West Trains services; and if he will make a statement. [129355]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rolling stock recently stored at Eastleigh comprises two types.

Most are Class 442s which have recently come off lease from the South West franchise, having been replaced by newer trains. Angel Trains Limited, who own the Class 442s, will be considering how they might be deployed in future, though their relatively low passenger capacity means that they are not suitable for all routes.

A number of Class 158 vehicles have also been stored at Eastleigh. Northern Rail announced on 13 March that they had taken the trains on lease to help ease crowding on some of their busiest services.

South West Trains: Fares

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he was first informed of proposals by South West Trains for a new premium rate for travel; what representations he has made to South West Trains on the new rate; and if he will make a statement. [130527]

Mr. Tom Harris: The franchise bid indicated an intention to review its fares strategy including those for unregulated off-peak fares.

These fares are unregulated and at the discretion of the franchise operator, therefore the Secretary of State has made no representations to Stagecoach.

South West Trains: Rolling Stock

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has made to South West Trains on *(a)* the condition of existing rolling stock and *(b)* future requirements for rolling stock. [130528]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department is currently agreeing a service quality regime with Stagecoach South Western Trains. This will cover the condition of the existing rolling stock.

Stagecoach South Western's bid included proposals on their strategy to provide capacity to meet the franchise requirements as outlined by the Department for Transport. This includes an extra 10 vehicles to operate 10-car operation on peak time Windsor Line services.

Tolls

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department are working on plans to introduce a national road pricing scheme. [122802]

Dr. Ladyman: The road pricing team comprises 22 staff. The present focus of their work is local pricing schemes.

Transport: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding the local transport authority in Lancashire received *(a)* in total, *(b)* per mile of road and *(c)* per head of population in each year since 1997. [130738]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the total funding allocated to Lancashire council in the local transport capital settlements in each year between 1997-98 and 2006-07 (inclusive) in terms of *(a)* totals *(b)* per mile of road and *(c)* per head of population.

Lancashire council

	Total funding (£000)	*Funds (£000) per mile*	*Funds (£ per head)*
1997-98	11,006	2.23	7.67
1998-99	7,155	1.66	6.21
1999-2000	9,681	2.25	8.4
2000-01	11,532	2.68	10
2001-02	27,830	6.49	24.15
2002-03	30,730	7.16	26.67
2003-04	25,388	5.92	22.03
2004-05	29,209	6.81	25.35
2005-06	25,865	6.03	22.45
2006-07	27,211	6.35	23.62

Note:
The 1997-98 figures include Blackpool and Blackburn, which were part of Lancashire pre-reorganisation.

Travel: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus and *(c)* train since 1997. [122746]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows in index form the costs of motoring, bus and train travel in real terms in each year since 1997.

Real changes in the cost of transport: UK 1997 to 2005 (Index 1997 = 100)

	All motoring[1]	*Bus fares*	*Rail fares*
1997	100.0	100.0	100.0
1998	99.7	99.9	100.7
1999	100.6	101.9	102.8
2000	101.4	103.0	101.5
2001	99.1	105.4	103.6
2002	96.7	106.9	104.2
2003	95.2	108.2	103.0
2004	93.4	110.5	103.9
2005	91.4	114.5	105.0

[1] "All motoring" includes the cost of purchase, maintenance, fuel, tax and insurance.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

The overall cost of motoring has fallen in real terms by 8.6 per cent. between 1997 and 2005. Over the same period, bus fares and rail fares have risen by 14.5 per cent. and 5.0 per cent. respectively.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the exit figures were from *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* severe disability allowance in (i) each Pathways to Work area and (ii) each non-Pathways to Work area in each quarter since the commencement of Pathways to Work pilots. [101792]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Children: Maintenance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of child maintenance claims were cleared within 18 weeks during the last six months for which the Child Support Agency was accepting applications to the old scheme; and if he will make a statement. [122925]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 23 February 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive.

He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 29 March 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what percentage of child maintenance claims were cleared within 18 weeks during the last six months for which the Child Support Agency was accepting applications to the old scheme; and if he will make a statement.

The Agency begins to process new applications as soon as they are received and continues until they have been cleared. Any applications that have not yet been cleared can be regarded as outstanding. The amount of work required to achieve clearance and the elapsed time it involves varies considerably depending on, amongst other things, the circumstances of the parents and how readily they cooperate with the Agency. As such, the Agency holds only a negligible number of completely unprocessed applications.

An old scheme clearance is defined under the following circumstances; if a maintenance assessment has been carried out; a parent with care has been identified as claiming Good Cause or is subject to a Reduced Benefit Decision; the application is identified as being a change of circumstances on an existing case; or the application has been closed. This differs from the definition of a new scheme clearance, which also includes further work in agreeing and setting up a collection schedule following the completion of a maintenance calculation.

68 per cent of child maintenance claims received on the old scheme in the period from 1st September 2002 to 28th February 2003, the last six months for which the Child Support Agency was accepting applications to the old scheme, were cleared within 18 weeks.

As you will be aware, the Agency has committed in its Operational Improvement Plan, published in February 2006, to improve performance in this area such that 80 per cent of new applications will be cleared within 18 weeks of receipt by March 2008.

Council Tax: Fraud

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount of money lost to council tax benefit fraud in the financial year *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [130183]

Mr. Plaskitt: Council tax benefit is similar to housing benefit in both regulations and administration. The following table shows estimated overpaid expenditure for council tax benefit by applying the proportion of expenditure that was overpaid for housing benefit, to the total expenditure on council tax benefit.

Estimated overpayment due to fraud in council tax benefit

	Percentage of expenditure	*Overpaid £ million*
2004-5	1.3	50
2005-6	1.0	40

Departmental Websites

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to introduce charges for employers posting adverts on the JobCentre Plus website. [118784]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 29 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question on whether he plans to introduce charges for employers posting adverts on the Jobcentre Plus website. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are no plans to charge employers for posting their job vacancies on the Jobcentre Plus website.

The basis of our employer strategy is that we offer enhanced services to those employers who best support our aim to help disadvantaged customers.

I hope this is helpful.

Disability Living Allowance: Fraud

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions his Department has instigated for the fraudulent use of disability living allowance in each of the last five years; how many of these prosecutions were successful; and if he will make a statement. [123867]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Prosecutions for disability living allowance related fraud

	Number of prosecutions	*Number of convictions*
2001-02	68	97
2002-03	85	90
2003-04	60	80
2004-05	86	106
2005-06	198	195

Notes:

1. The figures include prosecutions for benefit and instrument of payment related fraud.
2. The figures for number of prosecutions do not include General Matching Service cases.
3. The figures for the number of convictions include General Matching Service cases.

Source:

1. Number of prosecutions from Fraud Information by Sector.
2. Number of convictions from Disability and Carer's Service Operational Intelligence Unit.

The Disability and Carers Service, the agency responsible for administering disability living allowance (DLA), is committed to reducing fraud and error in DLA.

All allegations of benefit fraud are carefully considered and, where appropriate, referred for investigation to the Fraud Investigation Service.

Employment: Islam

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to increase the number of Muslim women in employment. [129065]

Mr. Jim Murphy: DWP does not focus its employment programmes specifically by faith, but instead focuses resources on disadvantage. Employment programme funding will be targeted on areas such as Tower Hamlets and Bradford where a large number of the population are Muslim.

Partners' Outreach for Ethnic Minorities, an outreach service which started in February 2007, aims to test ways to improve support for people from ethnic minorities who are disengaged from the labour market and unlikely to use mainstream Jobcentre Plus services. It is targeting Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Somali partners in low income households. The target group includes a high proportion of women who are predominantly Muslim. It is available in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Bradford, Leeds and Leicester, the cities identified in the National Employment Panel's 2005 report 'Enterprising people: Enterprising places'.

Housing Benefit Fraud

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on initiatives to reduce housing benefit fraud in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [118802]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information regarding the amounts provided to local authorities to help reduce fraud and error in housing benefit is in the following table.

	Amount (£ million)
1997-98	62.21
1998-99	38.63
1999-00	39.07
2000-01	35.11
2001-02	65.58
2002-03	73.75
2003-04	130.50
2004-05	128.44
2005-06	143.13

Notes:

1. A number of counter-fraud schemes have operated from 1997. These are the Weekly Benefit Saving Scheme, the New Incentive Scheme, the Security Against Fraud and Error Scheme and the Verification Framework. The figures include set up and ongoing costs for the Verification Framework in addition to money claimed by local authorities for work done under the Weekly Benefit Saving Scheme, the New Incentive Scheme and the Security Against Fraud and Error Scheme.
2. The main changes in expenditure between years can be explained as follows: A tightening of the rules in 1998-99 reduced the amounts local authorities could claim for counter-fraud work. The increase in 2001-02 was due to the replacement of the Weekly Benefit Saving Scheme by the New Incentive Scheme.

A further increase in subsidy paid in 2003/04 stemmed from increases in the rewards for anti-fraud work.

Source:

1997-98 to 2000-01 data are from the DWP Appropriation Accounts; later figures are from the DWP Resource Accounts.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many, and what percentage of claimants left incapacity benefit at the *(a)* four month and *(b)* 12 month stage of their claim in (i) Pathways to Work areas and (ii) non-pathways area, in each quarter since January 2003. [101793]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the tables. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. For illustration purposes total terminations for May 2004 increased by 33 per cent. in the year following their initial release.

Number and percentage of incapacity benefit (IB)/severe disablement allowance (SDA) terminations in Pathways to Work areas

Quarter ending	Up to 4 months	Up to 4 months (percentage)	4-12 months	4-12 months (percentage)
November 2003	1,000	—	800	—
February 2004	2,600	2.4	1,800	1.7
May 2004	5,200	4.8	3,700	3.4
August 2004	5,900	2.5	4,500	1.9
November 2004	5,400	2.3	3,900	1.7
February 2005	5,300	2.2	3,600	1.5
May 2005	5,400	2.3	3,800	1.6
August 2005	4,600	2.0	2,900	1.3
November 2005	5,100	2.2	3,600	1.6
February 2006	5,100	2.2	3,000	1.3
May 2006	4,700	2.0	4,000	1.7
August 2006	4,000	1.7	2,900	1.3

Number and percentage of incapacity benefit (IB)/severe disablement allowance (SDA) terminations in non -Pathways to Work areas

Quarter ending	Up to 4 months	Up to 4 months (percentage)	4-12 months	4-12 months (percentage)
February 2003	41,800	1.5	36,100	1.3
May 2003	55,300	2.0	46,900	1.7
August 2003	55,800	2.1	47,000	1.7
November 2003	57,100	2.1	46,700	1.7
February 2004	48,600	1.9	44,100	1.7
May 2004	45,600	1.8	42,300	1.6
August 2004	42,700	1.7	43,900	1.8
November 2004	45,700	1.9	44,100	1.8
February 2005	42,300	1.7	43,300	1.8
May 2005	43,700	1.8	42,800	1.7
August 2005	40,000	1.6	39,800	1.6
November 2005	40,000	1.7	37,400	1.5
February 2006	35,300	1.5	39,700	1.6
May 2006	35,700	1.5	42,500	1.8
August 2006	29,700	1.3	32,600	1.4

Notes.
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred
2. Numbers are based on a five per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.
4. Local authorities and Government office regions are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
5. Bridgend, Renfrewshire and Derbyshire were introduced as the first Pathways to Work areas in October 2003.
6. East Lancashire, Essex, Gateshead and South Tyneside and Somerset were introduced as Pathways to Work areas in April 2004

Source:
Information Directorate five per cent. sample

Industrial Health and Safety: Cannabis

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the regular use of cannabis on the performance at work of those employees on whom the health and safety of members of the public depend. [127806]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* No such assessment has been made.

However, in 2004, Cardiff university produced a research report for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on the impact of illegal drug use in the workplace. The report is available on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr193.pdf.

Jobcentre Plus

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what checks are undertaken by Jobcentre Plus to ensure that jobs advertised by agencies via Jobcentre Plus facilities exist and are not attempts to obtain CVs. [125668]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 29 March 2007:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking what checks are undertaken by Jobcentre Plus to ensure that jobs advertised by agencies via Jobcentre Plus facilities exist and are not attempts to obtain CVs. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As part of handling agencies through our Employer Direct Contact Centre or via our Employer Direct on-line service there are a number of steps taken before we accept their vacancies. These include making sure we have a signed service level agreement with the agency, which, among other things, clearly states they must not use our services merely to compile lists of potential employees. Over and above this, we also require details of the specific job in question, for example terms, conditions and a reference number, and confirmation that a contract exists between the agency and the employer.

Once accepted, vacancies placed through an Employer Direct Contact Centre or Employer Direct on-line are also subject to a 48-hour follow-up call from the Labour Market and Recruitment Adviser to discuss and agree ongoing handling arrangements. If suspicions are aroused about the legitimacy of the vacancy, either at this stage or subsequently, for example by a customer complaint, this is investigated fully and could, ultimately, lead to the withdrawal of service.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many calls to the central 0845 608 8564 Jobcentre Plus number were made in each month for which records are available; what the average time taken to answer customer calls to the number was in each month; and how many calls to the number were terminated before being answered in each month; [127850]

(2) what the maximum cost per minute is of calling the central 0845 608 8564 Jobcentre Plus number from *(a)* a land line and *(b)* a mobile telephone; [127851]

(3) which sections of Jobcentre Plus have to use the central 0845 608 8564 Jobcentre Plus number to make inquiries with central benefits teams; and which sections have alternative numbers by which to contact central benefit teams; [127852]

(4) how telephone and fax numbers for central benefits teams are circulated to *(a)* Jobcentre Plus offices and *(b)* Citizen's Advice Bureau offices. [127853]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 29 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking about calls made to the 08456 088564 Jobcentre Plus number of the Department for Work and Pensions; the use of alternative numbers by Jobcentre Plus; and the circulation of telephone and fax numbers to Jobcentre Plus offices and Citizens Advice Bureau offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The telephone number 08456 088564 relates to Exeter, which we are currently converting into a Benefits Delivery Centre. The current telephony system only gathers limited management information. The information we hold shows an increase in calls answered each month from 6,426 calls in December 2006 to 7,385 in January 2007 and 7,770 in February 2007. However, the current system does not provide data detailing the average time taken to answer calls or how many calls were terminated before being answered.

An average call lasts about 4 minutes—the calls cost (set by BT) between 1-3p per minute (from a landline) depending on the time of day. Call charges from mobile telephones vary depending on the service provider.

All Jobcentre Plus offices in Somerset were given alternative direct dial telephone numbers for central benefit teams. In addition, an e-mail procedure has been established to allow Jobcentre Plus staff to contact the processing teams, to improve communication. This will be in place by Mid April. The telephone and fax numbers were shared with Citizens Advice Bureau offices by means of a leaflet issued in the week prior to the introduction of the 0845 number on 05 December 2006.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many constituencies more people claimed job seeker's allowance at the end of 2006 than at the end of 1997. [118900]

Mr. Plaskitt: Nationally, the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance in Great Britain in December 2006 was a third less than in December 1997.

There were twenty-four constituencies in England where the number of people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance at December 2006 was greater than the number receiving jobseeker's allowance at December 1997.

There are no constituencies in Wales with such an increase.

Comparable Information is not available for Scottish constituencies due to major boundary changes between the two dates. However, for Scotland as a whole less people were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in 2006 than in 1997.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Minister of State for Pension Reform to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Argyll and Bute dated *(a)* 2 January and *(b)* 9 February on a constituent from the Isle of Mull. [130679]

Mr. Plaskitt: The hon. Member's letter was replied to on 29 March 2007.

New Deal

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the training providers of the new deal programmes, broken down by region. [111226]

Mr. Jim Murphy: This Department delivers new deal in England, Scotland and Wales. Information on new deal training providers in the nine English regions, Scotland and Wales is in the following lists and tables.

New deal training providers in English Regions

East Midlands

A4e
Instant Muscle
TBG Learning
Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities
Fern Training and Development Ltd.
SEETEC
Support into Work
Work in Progress
Yes2work

London

Career Development Group
Skills Training
A4e
Community Links
Mastwerk
Mencap
SEETEC
Sencia Ltd.
Shaw Trust
Status Employment Ltd.
YMCA Training

North East

A4e
Training Network Group Ltd.
Working Links
DISC
City Centre Training (Northern)
Shaw Trust

Yorkshire and Humber

A4e
Best Ltd.
Fern training and Development Ltd.
The Calderdale Colleges Corporation
Wakefield Council
YH Training Services

South East

A4e
Career Development Group
TBG Learning
Enham
WTCS
Oxfordshire Employment Service
Portsmouth Craft and Manufacturing Industries
SCOPE
Support Shop
Workbridge Enterprises

South West

A4e
BTCV
Bournemouth and Poole College
Prospects Services
SEETEC
WTCS

North West

Training Network Group Ltd.
A4e (Action for Employment)
Crosby Training
MBW Training Services LLP
Training West Lanes Ltd.
BTCV
Standguide
Inspire to Independence
Employment and Regeneration Partnership
First Asian Support Trust (FAST) Ltd
Local solutions
NWENET
Shaw Trust
Training into Employment (TIE) Oldham MBC
Voluntary Action Vale Royal

East of England

Training Network Group
YMCA Training
Kennedy Scott
A4e
Anglia Training Services
North Hertfordshire College
Shaw Trust
Armstrong Learning
Mencap
North Hertfordshire College
Papworth Trust
Remploy
Richmond Fellowship Employment and Training
Royal British Legion Industries Employment Service
SEETEC
Shackleton Associates

West Midlands

Periemps People Development Group
Biscom Resource Management
Dudley MBC Future Skills
ETW WARWICKSHIRE
Juniper Training
Shropshire County Training
Steps to Work Walsall
A4e
Birmingham CC
Warwickshire CC
Work Directions UK
WTCS
Work First

New deal training providers in Scotland

The Wise Group
Triage Central Ltd.
Claverhouse Training
SCVO
Support Training Ltd.
A4e
Argyll and Bute Council
East Dunbartonshire Council
Glasgow Mentoring Network
Lauder College
West Lothian Council
The North Highland College
Edinburgh University Settlement
Intowork

Quadrant
Scout Enterprises (Western)
The Shirlie Project
Shaw Trust
Swansea College
Management Introductions
Merxy College
Reed in Partnership PLC

New deal training providers in Wales

A4e Wales Ltd.
Carmarthenshire CC Training and Technology Centre
DASH Training South Wales LLP
Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training
Pembrokeshire CC
Scout Enterprises
SOVA
Swansea College
TD Training Ltd.
Tydfil training Consortium
Caerphilly CBC

New deal self-employment training providers in English Regions

	Regions
Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Agency	Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands and East of England
Inbiz	North West and North East
Birmingham Chamber of Commerce	South West and West Midlands
Training Network Group Limited	London and the South East

New deal self-employment training providers in Scotland

Inbiz

New deal self-employment training providers in Wales

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

New deal for musicians training providers in English regions

	Country
Armstrong Learning Ltd.	England

New deal for musicians training providers in Scotland

Scottish Cultural Enterprise Limited

New deal for musicians training providers in Wales

Quadrant Media and Communications Limited

Note:

This Department is not responsible for the provision of employment and training programmes in Northern Ireland.

New Deal for Long Term Unemployed

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were on the new deal 25 plus programme for the *(a)* first time, *(b)* second time, *(c)* third time, *(d)* fourth time, *(e)* fifth time and *(f)* sixth time or greater in each month since 1998. [124440]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 1 March 2007]*: Some people will return to new deal after leaving the programme, but this is inevitable in a dynamic labour market. New deal 25 plus has to be considered in the context of the people it sets out to help. People who suffer long periods of unemployment can find it particularly difficult to get back to and remain in work. The longer they are unemployed, the greater the barriers to getting work, and helping them into work is a considerable achievement.

The available information is in the following table.

New deal 25 plus participants

	Participating for				
Month	*First time*	*Second time*	*Third time*	*Fourth time*	*Fifth time*	*Sixth time or greater*
April 2001	7,500	2,330	720	30	0	0
May 2001	13,990	3,850	1,050	50	0	0
June 2001	20,690	5,380	1,360	90	0	0
July 2001	25,370	6,490	1,590	150	0	0
August 2001	30,820	7,710	1,860	250	0	0
September 2001	33,960	8,720	2,130	380	10	0
October 2001	35,900	9,680	2,730	550	10	0
November2001	37,950	11,040	3,530	780	10	0
December 2001	39,680	11,770	4,060	870	20	0
January 2002	40,180	12,020	4,290	1,010	20	0
February 2002	40,400	11,940	4,420	1,050	20	0
March 2002	40,610	11,830	4,550	1,180	20	0
April 2002	40,770	11,750	4,640	1,210	20	0
May 2002	40,920	11,960	4,910	1,250	30	0
June 2002	40,710	11,900	5,090	1,240	30	0
July 2002	40,230	12,070	5,320	1,320	40	0
August 2002	39,630	12,270	5,540	1,450	50	0
September 2002	38,740	12,140	5,650	1,580	60	0
October 2002	41,170	12,700	6,190	1,870	80	0
November 2002	42,330	13,270	6,660	2,090	90	0
December 2002	43,060	13,550	6,860	2,220	110	0
January 2003	42,950	13,520	6,930	2,370	120	0
February 2003	42,430	13,340	6,880	2,400	120	10
March 2003	41,990	13,110	6,730	2,340	130	0
April 2003	42,060	13,100	6,650	2,350	130	10

New deal 25 plus participants

Month	Participating for					
	First time	Second time	Third time	Fourth time	Fifth time	Sixth time or greater
May 2003	42,270	13,020	6,450	2,230	130	10
June 2003	41,910	12,700	6,170	2,120	130	10
July 2003	41,420	12,610	5,860	2,000	140	10
August 2003	40,900	12,530	5,650	1,920	130	10
September 2003	40,200	12,410	5,450	1,810	140	10
October 2003	39,380	12,380	5,280	1,750	150	10
November 2003	38,510	12,420	5,180	1,690	170	10
December 2003	38,340	12,590	5,160	1,690	190	10
January 2004	37,560	12,690	5,060	1,660	200	10
February 2004	36,830	12,660	5,060	1,630	230	10
March 2004	35,820	12,680	4,950	1,630	250	10
April 2004	35,130	12,660	4,930	1,680	300	10
May 2004	34,970	12,740	4,900	1,710	300	20
June 2004	34,610	12,760	4,880	1,740	330	20
July 2004	34,660	12,660	4,850	1,810	350	10
August 2004	35,010	12,820	4,990	1,930	390	20
September 2004	34,700	12,820	4,990	1,970	410	20
October 2004	34,250	12,740	4,990	2,020	450	30
November 2004	34,210	12,730	5,040	2,080	470	40
December 2004	34,670	12,940	5,110	2,220	510	50
January 2005	34,540	13,010	5,030	2,210	510	50
February 20005	34,550	13,040	5,030	2,210	550	50
March 2005	34,110	12,870	5,000	2,170	580	40
April 2005	33,440	12,610	4,950	2,140	630	40
May 2005	33,000	12,570	4,950	2,110	630	50
June 2005	32,500	12,550	4,920	2,120	650	50
July 2005	31,670	12,280	4,870	2,050	650	60
August 2005	31,230	12,150	4,820	2,070	650	60
September 2005	30,380	11,850	4,740	2,000	660	60
October 2005	29,680	11,610	4,700	2,020	650	60
November 2005	29,330	11,540	4,680	1,960	630	60
December 2005	29,410	11,690	4,790	1,970	640	70
January 2006	29,460	11,540	4,720	1,970	640	70
February 2006	29,570	11,640	4,760	1,940	640	80
March 2006	29,510	11,570	4,750	2,000	660	80
April 2006	29,460	11,590	4,810	2,040	680	80
May 2006	29,790	11,650	4,920	2,070	680	110
June 2006	29,860	11,720	4,990	2,130	700	120
July 2006	30,020	11,860	5,040	2,180	730	120
August 2006	30,460	12,030	5,190	2,250	780	130

Notes:
1. Data on participants is only available from April 2001, when the programme was enhanced.
2. Latest information is at August 2006.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value was of the subsidy paid to employers participating in the new deal programme in each year since 1997. [119442]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 February 2007]*: The information is in the following table.

Subsidies paid to new deal employers

	Programme	Subsidy	£ Total
1998-99	New Deal for Young People	12,833,938	[1]16,212,447
	New Deal 25 plus	3,378,508	[1]—
1999-2000	New Deal for Young People	26,796,246	[2]40,979,584
	New Deal 25 plus	14,183,337	[2]—

Subsidies paid to new deal employers

	Programme	Subsidy £	Total £
2000-01	New Deal for Young People	15,822,914	[3]29,368,663
	New Deal 25 plus	13,545,748	[3]—
2001-02	New Deal for Young People	14,437,503	[4]26,352,038
	New Deal 25 plus	11,914,534	[4]—
2002-03	New Deal for Young People	14,018,071	[5]26,749,631
	New Deal 25 plus	12,731,560	[5]—
2003-04	New Deal for Young People	12,109,282	[6]22,066,686
	New Deal 25 plus	9,957,404	[6]—
2004-05	New Deal for Young People	8,740,573	[7]15,309,518
	New Deal 25 plus	6,568,944	[7]—
2005-06	New Deal for Young People	8,442,265	[8]14,765,999
	New Deal 25 plus	6,323,734	[8]—

Notes:
1. Subsidies are only paid to employers through new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus.
2. The employment subsidy paid to employers through new deal for young people is £60 per week for up to 26 weeks for people working 30 plus hours a week, and £40 per week for people working 24-29 hours a week.
3. For new deal 25 plus, the subsidy paid to employers is £75 per week for up to 26 weeks for people they employ working 30 hours a week or more and £50 a week for people working 16-29 hours a week.
4. Employers who employ disabled people who meet the DDA definition of disability through either new deal are paid the full subsidy even if the vacancy advertised is for less than 16 hours a week.
5. New deal for young people started in January 1998 and new deal 25 plus started in July 1998.
6. Latest full year data is to March 2006.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Finance Directorate

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there were in the *(a)* New Deal for Lone Parents and *(b)* New Deal for Disabled People in each month since January 1998; how many of those people found work in each month; and how many people had been on the New Deal for Lone Parents for more than a year in each month. [119515]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 February 2007]*: The information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there were on the New Deal for Partners for *(a)* the first time, *(b)* the second time, *(c)* the third time and *(d)* the fourth or more time in each month since 1998. [125810]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New deal for partners

	Participants	First time	Of which, participating for the: Second time	Third time	Fourth time
April 2004	90	90	—	—	—
May 2004	320	320	—	—	—
June 2004	470	470	—	—	—
July 2004	680	670	10	—	—
August 2004	840	830	10	—	—
September 2004	1,010	1,000	10	—	—
October 2004	1,250	1,230	10	—	—
November 2004	1,440	1,420	20	—	—
December 2004	1,530	1,510	20	—	—
January 2005	1,690	1,660	30	—	—
February 2005	1,850	1,820	30	—	—
March 2005	2,020	1,990	30	—	—
April 2005	2,210	2,170	40	—	—
May 2005	2,310	2,270	50	—	—
June 2005	2,410	2,360	50	—	—
July 2005	2,490	2,430	60	—	—

New deal for partners

	Participants	Of which, participating for the: First time	Second time	Third time	Fourth time
August 2005	2,490	2,430	60	—	—
September 2005	2,580	2,520	60	—	—
October 2005	2,620	2,560	60	—	—
November 2005	2,660	2,600	60	—	—
December 2005	2,660	2,600	60	—	—
January 2006	2,700	2,630	70	—	—
February 2006	2,800	2,720	80	—	—
March 2006	2,940	2,850	90	—	—
April 2006	3,000	2,910	80	—	—
May 2006	3,060	2,970	90	—	—
June 2006	3,100	3,010	90	—	—
July 2006	3,140	3,040	100	—	—
August 2006	3,180	3,070	100	—	—

Notes:
1. New deal for partners started in April 1999.
2. Data are only available from April 2004.
3. Latest data are to August 2006.
4. People can be, and will be, included as participating in more than one month if the time spent on new deal for partners exceeded one month.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Where the number is between 0 and 4 it will be recorded as a dash in the table.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Parliamentary Questions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many written parliamentary questions to his Department in the 2005-06 session were not answered wholly or in part on grounds of disproportionate cost. [113281]

James Purnell: This information is not held in the format requested. However, it is a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

Part-time Employment: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women were working part-time in *(a)* 1979 and *(b)* 2006; and how many of these were earning below the lower earnings limit for national insurance contributions in each period. [123623]

James Purnell *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* The Labour Force Survey (LFS) uses self-classification to determine full or part time employment status. The LFS for spring 2006 shows 4.6 million part-time female employees. The survey records 1.5 million part-time female employees earning less than £84 per week. Results for spring 1979 show 3.4 million part-time female employees, but no information on earnings was collected in 1979.

Pathways to Work

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the tender deadline for phase 1 of the private and voluntary sector Pathways to Work pilots was extended to 11 April; what impact he expects the extension to have on service delivery; and if he will make a statement. [125347]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have extended the deadline for phase 1 provider led Pathways so that potential providers can better take into account the impact of the introduction of the employment and support allowance. This does not adversely affect the national rollout of Pathways.

Pension Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners his Department estimates are eligible for pension credit in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wales; how many pensioners in (i) the UK and (ii) Wales have taken up pension credit each year since it was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [128428]

James Purnell: Estimates of eligibility and therefore take-up are not available below the level of Great Britain, it is not therefore possible to say how many people are eligible to pension credit or what the take-up is in Wales.

The latest estimate of the number of pensioners entitled to pension credit in Great Britain is between 3.7 million and 4.2 million.

The latest estimates of the take-up of the main income-related benefits: income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) in Great Britain can be found in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2004/2005". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

Pension credit has been highly successful in reducing pensioner poverty and now, after housing costs have been accounted for, pensioners are less likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole. Since the introduction of pension credit, the number of pensioners in relative poverty has fallen by half a million.

We continue to make every effort to ensure that pension credit goes to those who are entitled to it. The table shows the number of households in Great Britain and Wales receiving pension credit each year since its introduction.

In Northern Ireland pension credit administration is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Pension credit household recipients

	Great Britain	Wales
November 2003	2,084,700	121,890
August 2004	2,592,590	151,980
August 2005	2,696,660	159,290
August 2006	2,728,150	162,050

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10/100.
2. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over).
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pension Credit: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each constituency in Wales were in receipt of pension credit in each year since 2003; and how much was claimed in pension credit in each Welsh constituency in each year; and if he will make a statement. [128425]

James Purnell: The answer is set out in the following table.

Household recipients of pension credit and the cost of pension credit expenditure for constituencies in Wales—November 2003 and November 2004

Parliamentary constituencies	Number of household recipients November 2003 (thousand)	Annual minimum income guarantee and pension credit expenditure 2003 (£ million nominal terms)	Number of household recipients November 2004 (thousand)	Annual pension credit expenditure 2004 (£ million nominal terms)
Aberavon	3.33	7.7	4.21	9.8
Alyn and Deeside	2.47	5.3	3.23	6.8
Blaenau Gwent	3.80	8.2	4.65	10.0
Brecon and Radnorshire	2.31	5.2	3.05	6.7
Bridgend	2.92	6.7	3.72	8.5
Caernarfon	3.06	6.5	3.69	8.0
Caerphilly	3.56	8.3	4.59	10.4
Cardiff Central	2.05	5.2	2.43	6.3
Cardiff North	2.11	4.8	2.72	6.2
Cardiff South and Penarth	4.31	10.5	5.15	12.8
Cardiff West	3.51	8.4	4.24	10.6
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	2.80	6.1	3.66	8.0
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	2.94	6.6	3.95	8.9
Ceredigion	2.37	5.4	3.20	7.3
Clwyd South	3.02	6.8	3.81	8.5
Clwyd West	3.32	7.5	4.24	9.6
Conwy	3.00	6.6	3.76	8.2
Cynon Valley	2.99	6.7	3.88	8.9
Delyn	2.68	5.7	3.42	7.3
Gower	2.76	6.2	3.44	7.8
Islwyn	2.80	6.0	3.63	7.7
Llanelli	4.17	9.7	5.14	11.9
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	1.75	3.8	2.33	5.0
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	3.44	7.9	4.42	10.3
Monmouth	2.48	5.5	3.21	7.2
Montgomeryshire	1.94	4.0	2.61	5.5
Neath	3.27	7.4	4.31	9.7
Newport East	2.57	6.0	3.38	7.7
Newport West	3.35	7.9	4.16	9.9
Ogmore	2.88	6.5	3.78	8.6
Pontypridd	3.19	6.9	4.09	8.8
Preseli Pembrokeshire	2.75	5.8	3.83	8.0
Rhondda	4.13	9.0	5.19	11.5
Swansea East	3.70	8.7	4.52	10.7
Swansea West	3.74	8.9	4.66	11.0
Torfaen	3.62	7.9	4.51	9.9
Vale of Clwyd	3.80	9.0	4.64	11.0
Vale of Glamorgan	3.03	6.9	3.74	8.6
Wrexham	2.87	6.4	3.55	7.9
Ynys Mon	3.10	7.2	3.95	9.2
Wales	121.89	275.9	154.55	350.3

Household recipients of pension credit and the cost of pension credit expenditure for constituencies in Wales—November 2005 and August 2006

Parliamentary constituencies	*Number of household recipients November 2005 (thousand)*	*Annual minimum income guarantee and pension credit expenditure 2005 (£ million nominal terms)*	*Number of household recipients August 2006 (thousand)*	*Annual pension credit expenditure 2006 (£ million nominal terms)*
Aberavon	4.46	10.9	4.52	11.7
Alyn and Deeside	3.39	7.4	3.40	7.8
Blaenau Gwent	4.75	10.8	4.81	11.6
Brecon and Radnorshire	3.15	7.2	3.18	7.8
Bridgend	3.85	9.2	3.89	9.8
Caernarfon	3.77	8.5	3.77	9.0
Caerphilly	4.79	11.4	4.89	12.3
Cardiff Central	2.50	6.7	2.57	7.2
Cardiff North	2.85	6.7	2.91	7.3
Cardiff South and Penarth	5.37	14.0	5.35	14.8
Cardiff West	4.40	11.5	4.40	12.1
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	3.80	8.5	3.87	9.2
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	4.08	9.4	4.15	10.0
Ceredigion	3.30	7.7	3.37	8.3
Clwyd South	3.92	9.0	3.96	9.7
Clwyd West	4.39	10.5	4.52	11.6
Conwy	3.90	9.0	3.90	9.6
Cynon Valley	4.03	9.7	4.06	10.4
Delyn	3.49	7.8	3.53	8.5
Gower	3.59	8.4	3.58	9.0
Islwyn	3.77	8.3	3.83	8.9
Llanelli	5.29	12.8	5.30	13.3
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	2.45	5.6	2.49	6.0
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	4.58	11.0	4.65	11.8
Monmouth	3.36	7.9	3.41	8.6
Montgomeryshire	2.72	6.0	2.77	6.5
Neath	4.48	10.5	4.54	11.4
Newport East	3.54	8.3	3.62	9.1
Newport West	4.32	10.6	4.40	11.5
Ogmore	3.94	9.3	3.92	9.8
Pontypridd	4.33	9.8	4.41	10.5
Preseli Pembrokeshire	3.97	8.5	4.02	9.2
Rhondda	5.46	12.6	5.50	13.4
Swansea East	4.68	11.5	4.74	12.4
Swansea West	4.55	11.5	4.57	12.3
Torfaen	4.64	10.7	4.71	11.5
Vale of Clwyd	4.81	11.8	4.90	12.6
Vale of Glamorgan	3.93	9.4	4.03	10.5
Wrexham	3.61	8.4	3.58	8.8
Ynys Mon	4.04	9.7	4.03	10.1
Wales	160.22	378.4	162.05	406.0

Notes:
1. Expenditure figures are consistent with the published PBR 2006 Great Britain pension credit outturn annual totals and are rounded to the nearest £100,000.
2. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Caseloads and average weekly amounts for November 2003, November 2004, November 2005 and August 2006 have been used to calculate the annual expenditure figures for each constituency in Wales.
5. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data and DWP Benefit Expenditure Tables

Pensioner Poverty

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate *(a)* how many pensioners were living in deep poverty, defined as a household income below 40 per cent. of median household earnings and *(b)* how many such pensioners were not claiming the full pension credit or minimum income guarantee they were entitled to in each year since 1997-98. [113565]

James Purnell: The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure poverty is income below 60 per cent. of median. We do not present information covering 40 per cent. of median income in our Households Below Average Income series as it is not a good measure of poverty. This is because households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey (FRS) may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending. Hence any statistics on numbers in this group may be misleading.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06' (HBAI). This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty.

Pension credit has been highly successful in reducing pensioner poverty; since its introduction, the number of pensioners in relative poverty has fallen by over 700,000. Now, for the first time in a period of sustained economic growth, pensioners are less likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole, after housing costs are accounted for.

We continue to make every effort to ensure that pension credit goes to those who are entitled to it. It is more challenging to reach those entitled to smaller amounts, or to the savings credit only, who may be less familiar with the entitlements available to them. The Pension Service has contacted pensioners to encourage them to take up entitlement to pension credit many times already as part of extensive marketing activity. Over 70 per cent. of those pensioners who appear to have entitlement to pension credit have been contacted over five times already. And around 25 per cent. of customers visited about pension credit say that they do not want to make a claim. However, we are committed to improving take-up and are continually looking at further ways to target these groups and encouraging them to apply.

The information requested for pensioners in Great Britain is shown in the following tables. Estimates of entitled non-recipients of MIG or pension credit should be treated with caution. This is especially the case given that we are looking at the extreme of the income distribution and so are less sure of pensioners' modelled entitlement. Results are based on small sample sizes and have not been corrected for biases that may be inherent in estimates of entitlement to income related benefits—that is, they may be based on the data for those who appear to be entitled non-recipients but will not all actually be entitled non recipients and vice versa. Figures are therefore presented as proportions of the total pensioner population below the 40 per cent. of median household income.

Table 1 : Number of pensioners living in households with less than 40 per cent of contemporary median household income, and as a proportion of all pensioners, for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06, Great Britain

	After housing costs (Million)	*As a proportion of all pensioners (Percentage)*
1997-98	0.47	5
1998-99	0.49	5
1999-2000	0.49	5
2000-01	0.46	5
2001-02	0.51	5
2002-03	0.47	5
2003-04	0.51	5
2004-05	0.45	4
2005-06	0.46	4

Notes:

1. Figures are presented after housing costs as this is our preferred measure for pensioners.
2. The table shows number of individuals in millions, rounded to the nearest 10 thousand.
3. These figures are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the FRS may not actually have the lowest living standards.
4. Estimates cover the private household population of Great Britain. The data source is the Family Resources Survey.
5. These figures are calculated using OECD equivalisation factors. Prior to 2002-03 they are based on a GB median and from 2002-03 it is based on a UK median. This is consistent with low income estimates published in the latest edition of Households Below Average Income. The GB median is similar to the UK median.

Table 2: Proportion of pensioners living in households with income below 40 per cent. of contemporary median household income who were also living in a benefit unit that is entitled but not receiving IS-MIG-PC, Great Britain

Percentage

	After housing costs	*As a proportion of all pensioners*
1997-98	36	2
1998-99	35	2
1999-2000	42	2
2000-01	45	2
2001-02	57	3
2002-03	55	3
2003-04	50	2
2004-05	64	3
2005-06	59	3

Notes:

1. Figures are presented after housing costs as this is our preferred measure for pensioners.
2. Estimates of the pensioner population cover those above state pension age (60 for women and 65 for men). The estimates therefore exclude some men aged 60 to 64 and partners of pensioners aged under 60, who may have been eligible but not claiming pension credit.
3. Estimates also exclude those cases where respondents have reported they are awaiting the outcome of a claim for a benefit and have been modelled as entitled to that benefit.
4. Estimates cover the private household population of Great Britain. The data source is the Family Resources Survey.
5. These figures are calculated using OECD equivalisation factors. Prior to 2002-03 they are based on a GB median and from 2002-03 it is based on a UK median. This is consistent with low income estimates published in the latest edition of Households Below Average Income. The GB median is similar to the UK median.
6. minimum income guarantee (MIG) was introduced for pensioners in April 1999 paid through income support.
7. Pension credit (PC) was introduced mid-way through 2003-04; therefore, estimates for 2003-04 cover those pensioners who were entitled but not receiving either MIG or PC. As this relates to the first six months of pension credit the figures should be treated with some caution.
8. For the purposes of this analysis, benefit unit based data (take-up statistics) were combined with household equivalised income based results (Households Below Average Income statistics).
9. Estimates for 2000-2001 and 2003-2004 onwards incorporate the results of a data matching exercise, which links the Family Resources Survey with DWP administrative data in order to identify 'hidden recipients' of MIG-PC, i.e. those people who tell the FRS they do not receive pension credit, but actually do.
10. Estimates are presented as proportions of the total pensioner population below the 40 per cent. of median household income, as the analysis is based on single-year survey data and the absolute numbers of such pensioners who were not claiming the pension credit or minimum income guarantee they were entitled to might be biased due to small sample sizes.
11. These analyses have not been corrected for the biases that may be inherent in estimates of entitlement to income-related benefits—that is, they may be based on the data for those who appear to be entitled non recipients (ENRs) but will not all actually be ENRs and vice versa—and so they should be treated with some caution.
12. The estimates relate only to those who were modelled as entitled to receive benefit but were not identified to be in receipt of any amount of benefit. It therefore does not include cases where a pensioner is in receipt of some benefit, but this is less than the amount they are truly entitled to. Including these cases may not give a reliable indication of full take-up due to the potential error that exists in modelling entitlement.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in retirement benefits to *(a)* couples, *(b)* single men and *(c)* single women where the recipients were aged (i) 60 to 64, (ii) 65 to 69, (iii) 70 to 74, (iv) 75 to 79 and (v) over 79 in the latest period for which figures are available. [126047]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table:

Average benefit income in £ per week, 2004-05 prices

	Couples	Single men	Single women
60-64	68	76	120
65-69	178	129	130
70-74	187	134	137
75-79	186	133	134
Over 79	196	139	148

Notes:
1. Benefit income includes national insurance related benefits (basic and additional state pension, widow's benefits and incapacity benefit), income related benefits (pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and social fund grants) and disability related benefits (mainly disability living allowance and attendance allowance).
2. Figures are for Great Britain.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest pound.
4. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling error.
5. Benefit income is self-reported and consequently can be misreported.
6. The breakdown by age for couples is by the age of the man.
7. The amounts for 60-64 year old couples and single men are lower than for older age groups because 60-64 year old men are not entitled to state pension.

Source:
Pensioners' Incomes Series 2004-05

Pensions: EC Law

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the extent to which the Government's policies on pension protection *(a)* have been and *(b)* are compliant with EU Council Directive 80/987/EEC of 20 October 1980; and if he will make a statement. [121445]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. member to the Secretary of State's written statement on occupational pensions of 28 March 2007.

Pensions: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Stroud constituency receive pension credit. [130069]

James Purnell: The answer is set out in the following table.

Household recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in each ward in Stroud constituency August 2006

Ward Name	Household recipients	Individual beneficiaries
Amberley and Woodchester	50	60
Berkeley	215	260
Bisley	60	75
Cainscross	325	395
Cam East	195	235
Cam West	205	265
Central	70	80
Chalford	165	205
Coaley and Uley	60	80
Dursley	220	265
Eastington and Standish	115	130
Farmhill and Paganhill	120	135
Hardwicke	115	145
Minchinhampton	195	235
Nailsworth	240	290
Over Stroud	50	60
Painswick	115	125
Rodborough	105	130
Severn	170	210
Slade	80	95
Stonehouse	405	490
The Stanleys	200	250
Thrupp	50	65
Trinity	85	95
Uplands	120	140
Upton St Leonards	60	70
Vale	50	65
Valley	85	105
Wotton-under-Edge	260	315
Stroud constituency Total	3,950	4,800

Notes:
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Wotton-under-Edge crosses the parliamentary constituency boundary.
3. As a result of 1. and 2. totals may not sum.
4. Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
5. Household recipients are those people who claim Pension Credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
6. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

Pensions: Call Centres

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of calls to the pension application hotline *(a)* were answered, *(b)* received an engaged tone and *(c)* went unanswered in the last period for which figures are available. [130555]

James Purnell: The Pension Service has two contact centres responsible for taking applications over the telephone. The pension credit application line takes applications for pension credit, and applications for state pension are taken by the Retirement Pension Teleclaim centre.

The latest period for which figures are available for the pension credit application line (PCAL) and for the Retirement Pension Teleclaim Centre (RPTC) is 1 February 2007 to 28 February 2007. A call receiving

an engaged tone does not reach the centre and is not therefore available to be answered. A call cannot be answered until it reaches the advisor queue, the percentages quoted are in relation to the calls available to be answered. The information is contained in the following table

1 to 28 February 2007	*Percentage of calls which received an engaged tone (these calls did not reach the centre) (b)*	*Percentage of calls available to be answered which were answered (a)*	*Percentage of calls available to be answered which were abandoned by the customer (c)*
PCAL	0.3	98.8	1.2
RPTC	0.0	99.9	0.1

Post Office Card Account

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with representatives of the banking industry on the development of the new Post Office card account; and if he will make a statement. [130191]

Mr. Plaskitt: My officials regularly meet with representatives of the banking industry to discuss issues of mutual interest, including wider developments in the banking world.

The Government have decided that there will be a new service after 2010 when the contract for the Post Office card account ends. In accordance with the EU procurement rules. We will tender competitively for this product and a notice will be placed in the Official Journal of the European Union shortly.

Social Fund

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of centralisation of Social Fund processing on *(a)* service to the public and *(b)* debt recovery; and on what evidence his assessment is based; [130177]

(2) how many calls to the Social Fund system have been *(a)* received, *(b)* answered and *(c)* completed in each office dealing with Social Fund applications. [130179]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie dated 29 March 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the centralisation of Social Fund processing and calls to the Social Fund system. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The centralisation of Social Fund is being undertaken on a roll-out basis and is not due for completion until March 2008. Once this schedule is complete Social Fund will be processed from 20 sites throughout the country. As we are only halfway through this process (with some of the rolled-out offices still to migrate Social Fund work into their sites), it is too early to make an assessment of the impact of centralisation. The decision to centralise this activity was to address performance variation and to concentrate our staff expertise to improve service to our customers.

The revised standard operating model was introduced recently. This makes our service more accessible to our customers because our customers can complete the process in a single call. As a result we have seen an increase in Social Fund applications and payments and a widening of access to the Fund.

The debt recovery process remains the same for centralised and non centralised offices.

As the modernisation programme for advanced telephony is still underway, we do not have management information giving the number of calls received, answered and completed in Social Fund sites.

State Retirement Pensions

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what impact he expects the Pensions Bill to have on the returns delivered by the financial markets to pensioners over the expected life of those expected to contribute under its proposed arrangements. [127520]

James Purnell: The introduction of personal accounts will enable more people to benefit from investment returns in financial markets and to receive higher incomes in retirement. We expect approximately £4 billion-£5 billion of additional savings per year as a result of personal accounts.

The impact on financial markets of such a savings increase is likely to be limited. Funds under management in personal accounts are expected to be invested in a diversified portfolio and are expected to be small compared to existing financial markets. As a result, we would not expect the rates of return delivered by the financial markets to pensioners to be affected significantly by the introduction of personal accounts.

Welfare to Work: Reform

Mr. Raffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department assisted David Freud on the Welfare to Work Review. [127740]

Mr. Jim Murphy: David Freud involved officials from across the Department in his review and was supported by a secretariat of three officials on a full-time basis and two officials on a part-time basis.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations: Prosecutions

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* charges and *(b)* convictions there were for contraventions of building regulations in (i) Basingstoke and Deane Borough, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [130517]

Angela E. Smith: As building control is a fully devolved service under the Building Act 1984, no central records are kept of charges or convictions arising from non-compliance with building regulations.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of council tax increases since 1997 on pensioners. [104035]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 653W, given to the hon. Member for Gravesham (Mr. Holloway).

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment she has made of the potential for reductions in council tax arising from proposals from shire counties for unitary authorities based on *(a)* county councils and *(b)* district councils. [129852]

Mr. Woolas: If implemented, the unitary proposals that we are consulting on have the potential of delivering savings of up to around £200 million per annum. It will be for those local authorities whose bids are implemented to decide whether they use any part of those savings to reduce council tax.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of the council tax revaluation in England; and if she will make a statement. [130119]

Mr. Woolas: The Government will stand by their commitment not to revalue during the lifetime of this Parliament. With the forthcoming three-year settlement for local government concluding in 2010-11 it would not expect to consider revaluation before this date. Even at this point there would need to be clear benefits given the costs to households that could be involved. It is not possible at this stage to estimate what the costs of a future revaluation would be.

Council Tax: Inspections

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on proposals to give local authorities the power to authorise council tax inspectors to enter private properties; what qualifications such an inspector will require; and what powers they will be granted. [130525]

Mr. Woolas: There are no such proposals. The Valuation Office Agency is a central Government Agency and its listing officers have the same powers of entry for the purposes of valuing homes for council tax that they were given when council tax was introduced in 1993. There have been no changes since then and we have no intention of making any changes in the future.

Council Tax: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2153W, on council tax: valuation, what property performance indicators local authorities are encouraged to collect. [128617]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/guidanc3.pdf

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the ministerial statement of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 13-7WS, on departmental expenditure limits, what the reason was for the transfer of *(a)* £104,000 from the Capacity Building to the Standards Board and *(b)* £300,000 from Bellwin to the Valuation Tribunal Service. [129260]

Angela E. Smith: The increase for the Valuation Tribunal Service is primarily to help cover costs of finding new premises for the Service's Peterborough office.

The increase for the Standards Board for England is to support the ongoing implementation of the code of conduct.

East of England Plan

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date she gave responsibility for the East of England Plan to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Heeley. [124282]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State has overall responsibility for decisions taken under Planning Acts. The Regional Assembly for the East of England published the draft East of England Plan on 8 December 2004 which was subject to an independent Examination in Public from 1 November 2005 until the 3 March 2006. The Examination in Public report was published on 22 June 2006.

Procedures and arrangements for the Ministerial phase of decisions on this round of RSSs were considered and set out in October, in advance of the first decisions needing to be taken, with the responsibility for decisions on the East of England Plan being delegated to me. The first decisions on the East of England Plan were taken by me in November.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which Minister the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State the hon. Member for Sheffield, Heeley reports on matters concerning housing and planning in the East of England region. [124863]

Meg Munn: I am the Minister responsible for planning case work and the Regional Spatial Strategy in the East of England region, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Equality

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward a Single Equality Bill. [126245]

Mr. Woolas: Proposals for the Single Equality Bill will be published in a Green Paper for public consultation, shortly.

Housing: Subsidies

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities are eligible for housing revenue account subsidy; and how much was granted to each eligible local authority in each year for which there are records; [127669]

(2) how much each local authority in England paid back to the Exchequer from their housing revenue account in each year since 1990. [127670]

Yvette Cooper: I have placed the information requested in the Library of the House in a form of a table showing the amount of positive and negative housing revenue account subsidy entitlement for every eligible authority since 1994-95. Earlier information can only be retrieved at disproportionate cost.

The definition of negative subsidy was changed by the Local Government Act 2003, which came into force on 1 April 2004. The figures given are directly comparable, though the terminology changed between the financial years.

In the most recent year for which audited data are available (2005-06), the Exchequer made an annual contribution of over £200 million.

Housing: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) definition of an outbuilding is for the purposes of dwellinghouse code 14 as published in VOA document IT IA 180303. [128408]

Mr. Woolas: The VOA has no rigid definition.

Key Workers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she expects to answer question 122428, on key worker homes, tabled by the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green on 20 February; [130619]

(2) when she expects to answer question number 122392, on homes for key workers, tabled by the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green on 20 February. [130620]

Yvette Cooper: I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member's questions.

I will answer them shortly.

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the budget is for the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative in 2006-07; and what budget is planned for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [130125]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost of administering the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative in 2007-08. [130185]

Mr. Woolas: The budget for years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the following table. Please note that these figures exclude a possible third round of LEGI which is dependent on the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

£

	Round 1	*Round 2*	*Total*
2006-07	31,196,136	n/a	31,196,136
2007-08	45,723,021	49,997,471	95,720,492
2008-09	49,132,091	53,913,129	103,045,220

The cost of administering LEGI in 2007-08 will be sensitive to a decision in CSR on whether there will be a third round of LEGI, and the timing of a third round. However, indicative costs for central Government administration spend for 2006-07 were £112,050, or 0.36 per cent. of the total budget for that year. I anticipate that administrative costs should remain broadly the same next year.

It is for local partnerships responsible for delivering LEGI to determine the proportion of their budget that is necessary and appropriate to efficiently administer the programme. We encourage partnerships to evaluate their spend against outcomes to help them achieve good value for money.

Local Government

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the written statement of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 71-3WS, on local government, what steps she plans to take in the event of the proposal for a unitary authority for Bedford being approved to ensure that a satisfactory outcome is obtained for the whole of the county of Bedfordshire. [130775]

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 71-3WS, on local government, what assessment she has made of the potential implications for *(a)* Mid-Bedfordshire and *(b)* South Bedfordshire of the approval of a unitary authority for Bedford; and if she will make a statement. [130792]

Mr. Woolas: We are now consulting stakeholders and partners (including all local authorities affected) on two unitary proposals for Bedfordshire—the proposal of Bedfordshire county council for a single unitary for the whole of Bedfordshire, and the proposal of Bedford borough council for a unitary Bedford. It is open to anyone, including the local authorities affected,

i.e., Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire, to comment on these proposals.

They may choose to respond to the consultation by proposing support for the Bedfordshire county council unitary proposal or by proposing support for the Bedford borough proposal, and in doing so, may suggest that the remainder of the county also be made unitary.

On the basis of the information currently before us, it is the Government's view that should the proposals for a unitary Bedford be accepted then the remainder of the county area would not be a viable two-tier area.

If, therefore, following consultation, we decided to implement the Bedford borough proposal, it would be open to us to direct (subject to the enactment of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill), the remaining authorities in Bedfordshire to come forward with a unitary proposal for the remainder of the county area.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date Sir Michael Lyons is contractually obliged to deliver his report on local government finance to the Government. [103897]

Mr. Woolas: Sir Michael Lyons published the final report of his independent inquiry into local government on 21 March 2007.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 931W, on local government finance, what the total was of each component of the formula grant to each local authority in each year since 1997. [130416]

Mr. Woolas: Tables showing the components of formula grant, together with formula grant for all authorities for each year from 1998-99 to 2007-08 have been placed in the Library of the House. Formula grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula Police Grant, SSA Reduction Grant (SSA Review), SSA Reduction Grant (Police Funding Review) and Central Support Protection Grant where appropriate.

It is not possible to compare the data year-on-year as these are not on a like-for-like basis as there have been many changes in funding and function. For example, prior to 2006-07 support for schools was provided through formula grant; from 2006-07 support for schools is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

National Association of Councillors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what funding her Department or its predecessor has provided to the National Association of Councillors since 2002. [129763]

Ruth Kelly: The Department has provided no funding to this organisation.

Plymouth City Council

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many people employed by Plymouth city council are paid £80,000 per annum or more. [129813]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the reasons for changes in the fees charged by local authorities for care services in the last 12 months. [128619]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

Charges for residential care are governed by Regulations, the "National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992", and statutory guidance issued by the Department, the "Charges for Residential Accommodation Guide". Councils must follow these Regulations and have limited scope to make discretionary changes to what is charged for.

Councils have discretion to set the level of charges for non-residential social services, within the framework of the Department's statutory guidance, "Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services, Guidance for Councils with Social Services Responsibilities".

Copies of the Regulations and guidance are available in the Library. The Department does not collect information on the reasons for changes in the fees charged by councils.

Social Services: Finance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she made of recent trends in social care costs when agreeing the local government grant settlement. [130188]

Mr. Woolas: Policy responsibility for the provision and funding of local authority services in the area of adult and children's social services rest with the Department of Health and the Department of Education and Skills respectively. The Government have provided significant investment in local services, including in the area of social care, since taking office. Total Government grant to local authorities has increased by 39 per cent. in real terms since 1997 and this has delivered real improvements, with the Commission for Social Care Inspection reporting recently that social care services for adults have improved for the fourth successive year.

The Government looked carefully with local government at all their cost pressures in 2006-07 and 2007-08, and the ways they could be managed, and have provided an extra £800 million over the two years above spending plans.

We are committed to ensuring that authorities can continue to deliver effective local services. We are working with local government to identify future cost

pressures on local authorities, and the ways in which these can be mitigated, as part of the comprehensive spending review 2007.

Valuation: IT Equipment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Valuation Office Agency has *(a)* to use and *(b)* to trial handheld computers for (i) council tax and (ii) business rate valuations. [129195]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is considering a number of ways in which it can reduce costs whilst improving its service delivery to taxpayers and ratepayers, and value for money for its clients.

Unitary Councils

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect on *(a)* fixed and *(b)* revenue costs of providing (i) school support services and (ii) specialist functions in the 26 areas where local authorities have put forward cases for unitary structures. [129591]

Mr. Woolas: In making their cases for unitary local government, authorities were required to submit a detailed financial analysis of the costs involved. These analyses, based on a standard pro-forma, included a breakdown of the existing and future costs of providing local authority services, including education. Education costs were provided separately for nursery and primary schools, secondary and special schools and other expenditure.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account she plans to take of *(a)* potential and *(b)* existing economies of scale in the delivery of services in determining which proposals for future unitary structures should go forward. [129592]

Mr. Woolas: All proposals were assessed against the five criteria set out in the Invitation to councils and we announced on 27 March which we judged, on the basis of the information available, had met the criteria and should go forward to consultation. One of those criteria is that the future local government structure must deliver value for money and equity on public services. A proposal demonstrating potential economies of scale in service delivery would have been a factor in our assessment of whether the proposal met this criterion. We will re-assess all proposals against the five criteria (set out in the Invitation) in the light of the consultation.

Unitary Councils: Exeter

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the *(a)* affordability and *(b)* value for money of Exeter City Council's business case for a unitary authority for the city. [130763]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's assessment against all five criteria, including affordability and value for money, are set out in Exeter city council's decision letter of 27 March 2007.

This is available on the Department's website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/121/DecisionletterExterCityCouncil_id1509121.pdf.

Valuation

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will break down by sub-heading the £193.45 million spent by her Department in 2005-06 on valuations services, as set out in the notes to the departmental resource accounts for 2005-06; and if she will make a statement. [130122]

Mr. Woolas: A breakdown of the £193.45 million spent by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005-06 on valuation services provided by the Valuation Office Agency in relation to domestic and non-domestic rating matters can not be provided in a meaningful way.

Waste Management: Cost Effectiveness

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a saving by a local authority arising from moving from weekly to alternate weekly collections of household rubbish can be counted by the local authority as an efficiency gain for the purposes of completing annual efficiency statements. [128615]

Mr. Woolas: It would depend on the circumstances.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing street

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 956-7W, on No. 10 Downing street, which hon. Members have accepted an invitation to nominate children to have tea at No. 10 Downing street; and what the date was of each such invitation. [130838]

Hilary Armstrong: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the right hon. Member on 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 956-7W.

Civil Servants: British Nationality

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to how many and what proportion of posts in the civil service a certificate under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955 applies, broken down by Department; and if she will make a statement. [129722]

Mr. McFadden: A certificate under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955 may be awarded in respect of employment in any non-reserved post, that is, in 95 per cent. of the total number of posts in the civil service. Figures on the number of certificates issued during 2006-07 are still to be finalised. For information on

earlier years, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 314W.

Office of the Third Sector

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Office of the Third Sector has spent on recruiting staff since its formation. [130706]

Edward Miliband: The recruiting costs of bringing staff into the Cabinet Office, including the Office of the Third Sector, will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and resource accounts which will be published in the summer.

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment the Office of the Third Sector has made of the proposal from the Commission on Unclaimed Assets for a Social Investment Bank. [130707]

Edward Miliband: We welcome the contribution of the independent Commission on Unclaimed Assets in developing proposals for the use of unclaimed assets in bank accounts.

The Government will consult on the distribution mechanism for unclaimed assets later in the spring and will consider the Commission's proposals for a Social Investment Bank as part of this process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Standard 7971

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 970W, on British Standard 7971, what the cost has been of analysing the standard against the police operational requirement (POR); and what the cost of producing the related PORs have been. [130336]

John Reid: An estimation of the funds allocated over a three year period (2004 to 2007) for the development and publishing of the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) standards for public order protection is in the region of £200,000. A small part of this would have been used to assess the BS7971 suite of standards against the police operational requirement. The police operational requirements are produced and owned by the Association of Chief Police Officers with input from HOSDB. The cost of the input from HOSDB would be a small fraction of the £200,000 allocated to developing and publishing of HOSDB standards.

Cannabis: Young People

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to warn young people of the dangers of cannabis in the last 12 months. [130281]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to informing and warning young people about the dangers of illegal drugs, including cannabis. Through the FRANK drug information campaign, we have consistently informed young people about the risks associated with cannabis use. Information has been made available on a website (with 1,100 visits to the cannabis page a day), in leaflets and via a helpline which receives around 1,350 calls a day. The message that 'cannabis isn't harmless' has been played out to young people as part of the FRANK campaign since October 2005 and information about the risks and effects associated with cannabis use continue to be a major element of the campaign through 2006-07.

Over the last 12 months, a comprehensive package of communications and resources has been delivered:

Around 25,000 cannabis information leaflets have been distributed to young people and their parents every month in 2006. In October 2006, three new leaflets were published with the clear message that cannabis is not harmless, it can affect mental health and contribute to the risk of schizophrenia. To date over 400,000 leaflets have been distributed.

New radio, TV and online advertising introduced from July 2006 carried strong messages to young people that cannabis can have an impact on mental health as well as having more immediate effects.

The Home Office, DfES and Department of Health have worked together with other key stakeholders to develop a drug education resource for pupils aged 11 to 14 and their teachers.

The pupil book, that accompanies the pack, provides young people with information about those drugs which research indicates they are most likely to encounter, including cannabis.

Working with the Department of Health we have produced a Mental Health pack that has been available to all mental health professionals since October 2006, highlighting the dangers of cannabis use and what can be done to tackle the problem.

The Home Office part funded the charity 'Young Minds' to produce a mental health leaflet for young people which was launched in November 2006.

In addition, DfES has also worked with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to produce the joining forces pack which provides guidance for police working in schools and colleges in relation to drugs.

Crime Prevention: Charities

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with crime prevention charities ahead of the announcement to cut the annual grant to Crimestoppers by 10 per cent. [130150]

Mr. Coaker: There has been no reduction in the annual grant to Crimestoppers. This charity is funded by the Crime Strategy Unit via a strategic partnership agreement (SPA) which commenced in December 2004 and is valid until March 2008. In March 2007 Crimestoppers were informed that they will be granted £900,000 for the financial year 2007-08 as specified in the SPA.

Demonstration: Parliament

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested for demonstrating and *(b)* stopped by police on suspicion of demonstrating within the exclusion zone around Parliament since its establishment. [129655]

John Reid: Section 132 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 came into force on 1 August 2005.

The Home Office does not collect the information requested on arrests centrally.

The Metropolitan police warn all demonstrators in the designated area who have not sought prior authorisation from the Commissioner who are invited to stop demonstrating and given time to depart. Those who refuse to stop their unauthorised demonstration, having been advised about the provisions covering demonstrations in the vicinity of Parliament, risk being arrested or reported for summons.

Departments: Golden Arrow Communications

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions during the last 12 months clients of Golden Arrow Communications have *(a)* tendered for and *(b)* been awarded contracts by his Department. [130834]

John Reid: The Home Office does not hold and is not responsible for the client list of Golden Arrow Communications. All contracts tendered and awarded by the Department are done so through fair and open competition and in compliance with the regularity framework set out in the European Public Procurement Directives.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128257]

Mr. Byrne: The Department, including its executive agencies, has mail contracts with Royal Mail and Secure Mail Services Ltd.

Deportation: Iran

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had regarding enforcement of deportations to Iran in the last two years. [129342]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 132WS.

Driving Offences: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were issued with a fixed penalty notice for *(a)* failing to wear a seat belt and *(b)* speeding in each of the last five years. [129922]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* Available information on seat belt and speed limit offences taken from the Fixed Penalty Notices Collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, from 2000 to 2004 (latest available) is provided in the table.

2005 data will be available later this year.

Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for seat belt[2] and speed limit[3] offences, England and Wales, 2000 to 2004

Thousand

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Seat belt offences[2]	135	144	126	146	202
Speed limit offences[3]	942	1,151	1,407	1,895	1,924

[1] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss.14 (3) and 15 (2) & (4).
[3] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 & 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926 - byelaws made thereunder.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those charged with theft tested positive for an illegal narcotic on arrest in the latest period for which figures are available. [129979]

Mr. Coaker: Information in the format required is not available. Data on those testing positive for specified Class A drugs—heroin, cocaine or crack cocaine—are collected at the point of testing, either on arrest or at charge, but not at both points.

In January 2007, 39 per cent. of offenders arrested for theft tested positive for Class A drugs while 48 per cent. of offenders tested at charge for theft were found to be positive for the specified Class A drugs.

Drugs: Rehabilitation Centres

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will undertake an audit of the availability of beds for convicted offenders in residential rehabilitation centres. [130348]

Mr. Coaker: Figures relating to the number of these beds which are occupied by convicted defendants are not held centrally and an audit would not be cost-effective.

Nationally, there are around 120 drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation services in the community with approximately 3,000 bed spaces. These are available to individual drug misusers in the community, including convicted defendants as part of a community order with a drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR)/ drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) or post-custodial licence, where assessed as suitable on an individual basis by a qualified professional.

Fingerprints: Children

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals are being considered to fingerprint children under the age of 16 as part of the passport and identity card system; and if he will make a statement. [126202]

Joan Ryan: Section 2 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 clearly establishes that only those aged 16 and over are eligible to be registered on the National Identity Register and issued with an identity card. Thus, there are no plans to record fingerprint biometrics of those aged under 16 on the National Identity Register for the purpose of issuing identity cards. The records of passport holders aged under 16 will not form part of the National Identity Register.

To maintain the reputation and integrity of the British passport, we intend to keep in step with European Union regulations which require the introduction of fingerprint biometrics into passports by June 2009. At present, the regulation specifies no minimum age for the recording of fingerprint biometrics and discussions between member states are continuing on that issue.

As set out in the Strategic Action Plan for the National Identity Scheme published in December 2006, the Identity and Passport Service has anticipated that it may be necessary to record fingerprint biometrics for passports issued to those over the age of 11. Passports issued to those aged between 11 and 15 years are of a five year validity. They need to match the physical and technical standards of those issued to adults as the holders of such passports hold them when they become more economically active and move into adulthood, possibly continuing to use such passports up to the age of 20. For example it would be anomalous for one 19-year-old to have a passport which incorporated fingerprint biometric data and another 19-year-old to have a passport which did not incorporate fingerprint biometric data as it was issued when the holder was under 16 and not treated as an adult.

Police

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary cost is of the *(a)* director of the Policing Policy and Operations Directorate and *(b)* head of the Police Human Resources Unit in 2006-07. [129371]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* It is civil service policy to disclose salary details for senior civil servants at board level only. These are published in the annual Home Office Resource accounts. The director of the Policing Policy and Operations Directorate and the head of the Police Human Resources Unit are not board level posts.

Prison Service Staff

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of senior operational managers in the Prison Service are from ethnic minority groups. [129974]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is available for all public sector prisons and seven of the 11 private establishments. Together the Prison Service employs 341 senior operational managers, of whom eight (2.3 per cent.) are recorded as black and minority ethnic (BME). The base total includes two people who declined to state their ethnicity.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many additional prison officers and custody officers at each rank within *(a)* the Prison Service and *(b)* the private sector will be employed to supervise the new prisoner places announced as being available by 2012; how many of those places will be for (a) single and (b) multiple occupation; and how many occupants per multiple occupied cell this represents. [121214]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Staff numbers are dependent on the type. Decisions on the number of additional prison and location of prisons and whether they are financed publicly or privately. As the prison regimes are also still under consideration, decisions on the number of additional prison custody officers required, whether publicly or privately employed, have not yet been made. The number of additional staff required for each site will largely be dependent on the type of prisoners.

Nearly all new places to be provided by 2012 will be built as single occupancy cells although, at certain sites, there will be cells built to hold two prisoners. The final configurations have not yet been confirmed for all sites.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were placed on detoxification programmes for drug misuse in each of the last three years. [129931]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table indicates the number of entrants to prison detoxification and drug maintenance programmes for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06. Full year figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

	Entrants
2003-4	57,891
2004-5	53,903
2005-6	53,773

These data have been extracted from the Prison Service PSimon database.

Road Traffic Offences: Cross Border Cooperation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on cross border traffic penalty enforcement; and what agreements have been reached. [129264]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has had no direct meetings with the European Commission on cross border traffic penalty enforcement. However, research is being funded by the Commission's Director General for Energy and Transport (DGTREN) under the projects VERA (Video Enforcement for Road Authorities) and CAPTIVE (Common Application of Traffic Violations Enforcement). These projects were initiated to identify the steps that could be taken at a European level to implement a pan-EU approach to cross-border enforcement of traffic offences

involving all member states. Officials from the Department and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency have taken part in workshops to take this work forward.

Additionally, in January, the Department also responded to a Commission consultation paper 'Respecting the Rules Better Road Safety Enforcement in the European Union'. A copy of the response can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety_library/consultations/enforcement_20061106/enforcement_united_kingdom.pdf.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* transition costs were for the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [125759]

Mr. Coaker: The SOCA *(a)* set-up costs are £27.28 million, made up of £8.9 million net additional resource expenditure and £7.73 million capital as reported in the 2005-06 accounts of the Home Office, NCS and NCIS; in addition to £10.65 million NCS and NCIS reported as core budget expenditure related to SOCA, which included the value of NCS/NCIS staff time spent on implementation and planning of SOCA work.

The SOCA *(b)* transition costs are identified by SOCA as being £33.5 million during 2006-07; £8 million being related to one-off costs and £25.5 million of recurrent costs.

Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when sections 71 to 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 came into effect; and how many times a judge has made an order pursuant to these sections. [128770]

Mr. Coaker: Sections 71 to 74 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 were brought into effect on 1 April 2006 by means of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Commencement No. 5 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Savings) Order 2006 [SI 2006/378 (C.9)]. Central figures are not kept on how often these provisions have been used.

Standford Hill Prison

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prisoners absconded from HMP Standford Hill in each year since 1992; [130073]

(2) how many prisoners who have absconded from HMP Standford Hill were not recaptured and returned in each year since 1992; [130074]

(3) how many prisoners, returned to HMP Standford Hill having absconded, were dealt with under prison disciplinary procedures in each year since 1987. [130075]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* The following table sets out the number of absconds that have occurred from Standford Hill prison in each financial year since 1995-96. It is not possible to provide data for previous years as there are no central records prior to 1995-96. Data for the current financial year are provisional and subject to further validation as part of the in-year and final end of year validation process.

The prison service is currently developing a mechanism for collating recapture data. At the moment the only way of providing this information is for every prison to interrogate records to determine whether any of Standford Hill's absconders were subsequently received in any other prison following recapture and what disciplinary action, in addition to being returned to closed conditions, was taken. This could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Absconds from Standford Hill prison

	Number
1995-96	50
1996-97	71
1997-98	35
1998-99	40
1999-00	43
2000-01	29
2001-02	37
2002-03	83
2003-04	89
2004-05	39
2005-06	58
2006-07[1]	32

[1] Data for the current financial year includes absconds from 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007

Women's Prisons

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many UK institutions held adult female prisoners in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement; [129703]

(2) how many prison places were available for adult female prisoners in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [129022]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Secretary is responsible only for prisons in England and Wales. Responsibility for prisons in Scotland and Northern Ireland lies with the Scottish Assembly and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland respectively.

The following table shows the number of prisons in England and Wales that held adult women prisoners in June each year since 1992.

	Number of prisons
1992	12
1993	12
1994	12
1995	13
1996	14
1997	15
1998	17
1999	16
2000	16
2001	17
2002	19
2003	19
2004	19

	Number of prisons
2005	19
2006	16

The number of prison places available for adult women prisoners in each year since 1992 is shown in the following table:

	Adult female CNA[1] places[2]
1992	1,765
1993	1,782
1994	1,731
1995	1,928
1996	2,028
1997	2,515
1998	2,829
1999	2,899
2000	3,092
2001	3,275
2002	4,063
2003	4,225
2004	4,440
2005	4,604
2006	4,457

[1] CNA—Certified Normal Accommodation, or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation.
[2] Operational capacity figures for adult female prisons only are not available. Operational capacity is determined for the whole prison, and cannot be sub-divided for different population groups, such as adult female prisoners.

Licensed Premises: Safety Measures

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the use of plastic glasses in licensed premises. [130126]

Mr. Coaker: Other than previous debates in the House and representations made by individual MPs on behalf of their constituents, no specific representations have been made by the drinks industry or other stakeholders on the use of plastic in licensed premises. The Licensing Act 2003 already provides for the police to apply for licence reviews and for conditions to be attached to licences. For example, that the licensed premises should use toughened drinks glasses and bottles. The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 will in due course also provide a new fast track alcohol licence review process that could lead to such conditions being applied in cases of serious crime and disorder. We are also committed to reviewing the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England that was published in March 2004, later this year.

TREASURY

Occupational Pension Schemes

15. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the cost of compensating those affected by occupational pension wind-ups. [130453]

Ed Balls: The Chancellor meets the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues including, in recent weeks the Chancellor's Budget announcement that the Government would triple the long-term money available for the Financial Assistance Scheme from £2.3 billion to £8 billion in cash terms, so that all members of pension schemes that were wound up under-funded due to employer insolvency will receive significantly more assistance from the taxpayer.

G8 Summit

17. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is planning to attend the G8 Summit of Finance Ministers in Germany in 2007. [130456]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) earlier today, *Official Report*, col. 1636.

Taxation

18. **Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of income a household on average earnings will spend on taxes in 2007-08. [130457]

19. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of income a household on average earnings will spend on taxes in 2007-08. [130458]

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of income a household on average earnings will spend on taxes in 2007-08. [130454]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer given to the hon. Members for Broxbourne (Mr. Walker) and Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) earlier today, *Official Report*, col. 1619.

21. **David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the burden of taxation following his recent financial statement. [130460]

Mr. Timms: Net taxes and national insurance contributions as a proportion of gross domestic product are shown in Chapter C of Budget 2007. The projections for the next five years are broadly unchanged from those in the 2006 pre-Budget report, and remain well below the peaks reached in the early 1980s.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to redistribute the tax burden. [130438]

Ed Balls: The net tax burden faced by a single earner couple with two children on male mean earnings has fallen from 21.2 per cent. in 1997-98 to 20.5 per cent. in 2007-08. After the reforms announced in Budget 2007 the net tax burden faced by this family will fall further to 20.0 per cent. by April 2009. Figures for the same family on half male mean earnings are 2.4 per cent. in 1997-98 falling to -14.6 per cent. by April 2009.

Financial Assistance Scheme

20. **Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net present value is of the additional contribution to the Financial Assistance scheme announced in the Budget. [130459]

Ed Balls: The net present value of the additional contribution to the FAS is £1 billion. This represents an extra £5.6 billion when expressed as long-term cash expenditure. The extension more than triples the previous level of support, raising the total long-term cash expenditure on FAS to £8 billion from a previous £2.3 billion, or to £1.8 billion from a previous £830 million in terms of net present value. This is an extremely generous package of support that will ensure that everyone who has lost out will receive the vast majority of the pension they had originally expected to receive, and will benefit an additional 85,000 people.

Tax Credits

22. **Peter Viggers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer In how many cases of tax credit administration the computer system has been incapable of producing a result and the case has been transferred to manual management. [130461]

Mr. Timms: Around 34,500 households are currently receiving manual payments representing around half of one per cent. of households currently benefiting from tax credits.

There have been around 86,000 cases in total to the end of February 2007.

Children's Centres

23. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding he has allocated to children's centres in each of the next five years. [130462]

Ed Balls: Budget 2007 announced significant extra funding for Sure Start, childcare and early years over the next spending period. This will amount to at least an additional £340 million by 2010-11 compared with 2007-08 levels—over £1.6 billion by 2010-11. This is in addition to the extra resources that the Government provided at Budget 2007 to meet the commitment in the ten year strategy for childcare to increase the free early education offer to three and four year olds from 12.5 hours to 15 hours by 2010.

Assets

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have held discussions with (i) the Financial Services Authority and (ii) representatives from major insurance corporations on the treatment of orphan assets, with particular reference to distribution and reattribution; and if he will make a statement. [130482]

Ed Balls: Treasury Ministers and officials hold regular meetings with the Financial Services Authority and representatives of the financial sector on a range of topics. Treasury officials have met representatives of Aviva and with the policyholder advocate appointed to represent policyholder interests. The Treasury also issued a consultation on 29 December 2006 on the role of the policyholder advocate and has received a number of responses. However, day-to-day supervision of reattribution of inherited estate is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that shareholders in major insurance corporations do not receive dividends based on the release of orphan assets at a higher percentage than on the distribution basis; and if he will make a statement. [130499]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Cost-effective Energy: Households

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he assumes the next decade to end; and how he will judge the practical cost-effective energy efficiency potential of each household as referred to in paragraph 7.68 of the Budget 2007 Red Book, HC 342. [130021]

John Healey: The Budget set out a series of measures Government are taking to help householders improve their energy efficiency, with the overarching aim that by the end of the next decade—the end of 2017—where practically possible, all homes will have achieved their cost-effective energy efficiency potential.

Cost-effective action on household energy efficiency refers to those measures that soon pay for themselves in reduced fuel bills for example, this includes where applicable hot water tank insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, heating controls and draught proofing (see, for example, analysis in the Review of the Sustainability of Existing Buildings, November 2006, available on the Communities and Local Government website).

Customs Officers: Manpower

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers were employed in the UK in each year since 1995. [130151]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of staff in HM Customs and Excise from 1995 to 2005 were published in the tables to the Civil Service Statistics, available in printed form in the House of Commons Library and online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/index.asp

After this time, no statistics are available for HM Customs and Excise as a separate Department, and the figures refer to HM Revenue and Customs.

Departments: Air Pollution

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the carbon footprint of his Department, *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions from his Department's buildings and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from air travel by his Department's (i) Ministers and (ii) officials for each year between 1999 and 2006. [130290]

John Healey: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1027W, to the hon. Members for St. Albans (Anne Main) and Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling).

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he was accompanied on official business abroad by *(a)* a special adviser, *(b)* one of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's special advisers and *(c)* a member of the Council of Economic Advisers; and at what cost in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130286]

John Healey: Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 85WS.

Records for 2005-06 show the Chancellor was accompanied on official business abroad by special advisers or members of the Council of Economic Advisers on eight occasions, and the costs of their overseas travel is included in the annual list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers.

For information on special advisers' overseas travel for years previous to 2005-06 I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2411-12W.

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the relevant requirement of the Ministerial Code, paragraph 2.11, if he has more than two special advisers. [130289]

John Healey: All special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

As set out in the Prime Minister's statement to the House of 24 July 2006 the Chancellor has two paid special advisers.

The Prime Minister's statement also sets out that the Chancellor has one unpaid special adviser and has appointed a Council of Economic advisers, who are employed on special adviser terms, a commitment in the 1997 Labour party business manifesto. The Council is made up of individual policy experts who will bring their specialist experience to work on the Government's key policy priorities.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130140]

John Healey: The Treasury has not made any such appointments.

Employment

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals he has to increase employment. [130455]

John Healey: The Government's measures to increase employment build on a platform of macro-economic stability and economic growth, and include continued investment in the New Deal, investment in skills and training, welfare reform to help people move from inactivity to work, and the National Minimum Wage and Tax Credits to make work pay. Employment is now at a record high, with over 2.5 million more people in work than in 1997, and the highest employment rate of the G7 economies.

Low Incomes: Housing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how his Department is working with counterparts in Government on providing more affordable homes. [130152]

John Healey: The Government recognise concerns over housing affordability, particularly among first-time buyers, and is acting to alleviate these pressures on various fronts including by tackling supply constraints; bringing forward public sector land for development; doubling the stamp duty threshold; building more social housing; and helping people into home ownership through supporting shared equity schemes. The Treasury is working with Departments across Government in support of this agenda.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1494W, on ministerial visits, in which publication the locations of visits by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury in 2005 to 2006 are listed. [128486]

Ed Balls: As set out in my answer of 7 February, *Official Report*, column 1032W, since 1999 the Government have published information on an annual basis listing overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel.

The locations of overseas visits by junior Ministers are not routinely published. However, as stated in my answers of 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1341W and 7 February 2007, *Official Report* column 1032W, I can confirm that I visited Israel and the Occupied Territories in December as part of the work Jon Cunliffe and I are leading on opportunities to support economic development to accompany and enhance the Middle East peace process. I can also confirm that I travelled again to the region on 12-13 March for the same purpose.

NHS Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his reference in his Budget 2007 speech on 21 March 2007 to the £8 billion increase in

the national health service budget for England in financial year 2007-08, whether this figure takes account of the private finance initiative debt owed by primary care trusts. [130030]

Mr. Timms: As stated in the budget, total NHS spending in England is expected to increase by over £8 billion in 2007-08. NHS organisations are responsible for how they spend their allocations to meet the health needs of their local populations. Where NHS organisations have invested in improved local services they must meet the costs of this investment, whether it is procured through public or private finance, from their allocated budgets.

Office of Government Commerce

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will estimate *(a)* the savings delivered to the Exchequer by the activities of the Office of Government Commerce (OCG) in each year since it was established and *(b)* the savings made on each OCG programme in each year. [107777]

John Healey: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) reports against two Public Service Agreement targets, and the following tables detail the savings made against these two major programmes.

Value for Money

OGC reports value for money (vfm) gains in central Government civil procurement through improvements in the success rate of programmes and projects and through other commercial initiatives:

£ million

	Total vfm gains	Direct Negotiations	Joint Procurement	Reduced process costs	Gateway and other improved contract or asset management
2005-06	2600	806	484	79	1,231
2004-05	2262	677	410	113	1,062
2003-04	2086	655	466	178	787
2002-03	767	542	114	52	59
2001-02	401	220	86	40	55
2000-01	414	304	22	36	52

The Efficiency Programme

The 2004 Spending Review set targets for the Government to achieve annual efficiency gains of over £20 billion and gross workforce reductions of more than 84,000 by 2007-08.

Progress is as follows:

	Efficiency Gains (£ billion)	Comment
2005-2006 - year one of programme	9.8 (by 31 March 2006)	Figure published in HMT CSR 07 document (13 July 2006)
2006-2007 - year two of programme	[1]15.5 (by 31 Dec 2006)	Figure announced in budget 2007

[1] Cumulative figure covering first 21 months of programme.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the timetable is for the *(a)* consultation process, *(b)* further publications, *(c)* introduction of legislation and *(d)* ratification and implementation in relation to planning gain supplement. [114368]

John Healey: The 2006 pre-Budget report announced that the Government will move forward with the implementation of the planning-gain supplement (PGS) if, after further consultation, it continues to be deemed workable and effective. In response to views expressed by consultation respondents on specific policy areas, the Government have published three further consultation papers on elements of the design of PGS and the new approach to planning obligations. The consultations are:

Valuing planning gain: a planning-gain supplement consultation, HM Revenue and Customs;

Paying PGS: a planning-gain supplement technical consultation HM Revenue and Customs; and

Changes to planning obligations: a planning-gain supplement consultation, Department for Communities and Local Government.

The period of consultation on these documents lasts until 28 February 2007 and copies of the consultations are available in the Library of the House and from departmental websites.

The Government also announced at the 2006 pre-Budget report that a workable and effective PGS would not be introduced earlier than 2009.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimates are of spending on public service pensions as a share of gross domestic product in each year from 2005-06 to 2050-51; and if he will make a statement. [130182]

Mr. Timms: The latest public service pension projections covering a 50-year horizon were published by HM Treasury in the 2006 Long-Term Public Finance report, table 5.1. The report shows that spending as a share of GDP is projected to be very stable over the coming decades, fluctuating between 1.8 per cent. in 2015-16 to

2 per cent. of GDP in 2055-56. The report publishes projections on a 10-year basis.

Tax Allowances: Pensioners

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will hold discussions with HM Revenue and Customs on changing the personal allowance threshold for pensioners. [130113]

Ed Balls: At PBR, the level of the special age-related income tax allowances for 2007-08 was announced. These were increased in line with inflation to £7,550 for those aged 65-74 and £7,690 for those aged 75 and over. This year's Budget announced that the age-related income tax allowances will rise by £1,180 above indexation in April 2008 and that by April 2011 no pensioner aged 75 or over will pay any tax until their income reaches £10,000 a year.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many families are entitled to working tax credit, broken down by region and nation; and how many and what proportion of eligible families are claiming the credit; [130253]

(2) how many families in Stroud constituency are entitled to claim working tax credit; and how many and what proportion of such families are claiming the credit. [130254]

Ed Balls: Estimates of child and working tax credit take-up rates for 2004-05 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Take-up rates at United Kingdom level are shown in table 1. Take-up rates for working families with children at country and regional level are shown in table 9.

Take-up rate estimates are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Youth Sport Trust

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he expects the National Youth Volunteering Organisation to play a role in administering funds for the Youth Sport Trust programme he announced on 7 February. [129327]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Sport Trust programme is being funded by v following their successful application to v's grants 1 funding round. The Youth Sport Trust programme aims to provide technical coaching, such as refereeing and umpiring, to 16-19 year olds, creating over one thousand volunteering opportunities.

As the grant provider, v will monitor the grants made by the Youth Sport Trust, ensuring the funds are spent to agreed quality standards, deliverables, timescales and budget.

NORTHERN IRELAND

A2

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures are in place to manage traffic on the A2 Bangor to Belfast road following accidents on that road; what assessment he has made as to whether these procedures were followed following the accident there on 16 March; and if he will make a statement. [129649]

Paul Goggins: During the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006 there have been 119 road traffic collisions on the A2 Belfast to Bangor road, (between the junctions of Knocknagoney road and Abbey street/Brunswick road, Bangor). The vast majority of these collisions have been dealt with causing minimum disruption to the motoring public.

The nature of this route is such that there is almost constant congestion during rush hour; unfortunately any collision or road closure inevitably results in that congestion becoming extreme. The options available to relieve this route are limited and

incapable of coping efficiently with diversions.

A serious road traffic collision occurred on the A2 Bangor to Belfast road at approximately 7.45 am on 16 March 2007.

The collision, which was close to the Culloden Hotel, involved four vehicles and blocked both Belfast bound and Bangor bound traffic lanes. In this regard it was necessary to implement a closure of the road in both directions.

All available police resources were tasked to the area to deal with the accident investigation, assist with the casualties and manage the necessary diversions to keep traffic disruption to a minimum.

In addition the Northern Ireland fire and rescue service and the Northern Ireland ambulance service attended the scene.

Debris and a petrol spillage resulted on the road that required the attendance of DRD Roads Service before the route could be safely re-opened.

Police reopened the road on a phased basis as soon as was practically possible, with one Bangor bound traffic lane being reopened initially, followed by the second Bangor bound traffic lane, followed by both Belfast bound traffic lanes.

Full use was made of local media to advise motorists of the incident and text alerts were circulated to members of a local community information network scheme.

Police in North Down are reviewing this incident and a further serious road traffic collision, which occurred in the same vicinity to ascertain if there are any learning points.

The procedure to deal with any road traffic collision will be dependent on the prevailing circumstances and the PSNI made every effort to deal with the incident on 16 March 2007 in a professional, effective and efficient manner and return the area to normality as quickly as possible.

Any disruption to traffic flow and inconvenience to motorists is regrettable; however the primary policing

objectives of the protection of life and property must be the paramount and overriding considerations in response to this type of incident.

Community Support Officers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police community support officers he expects to be employed in each police district command unit area following their introduction in Northern Ireland. [129513]

Paul Goggins: The deployment of PCSOs across police district command units is an operational matter for the chief constable. I am advised by the chief constable that a number of options for the deployment of PCSOs are currently being discussed but no decision on this has yet been taken.

Public Appointments: Former Members

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130149]

Mr. Hanson: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. This shows that the following hon. Member who left Parliament in 2005 has since been appointed to two public bodies. The information requested is shown in the following table.

Name	*Party*	*Appointing Authority*
Mr. Roy Beggs Senior	Ulster Unionist Party	Re-appointed on 1 July 2005 to the North Eastern Education and Library Board by the Department of Education (DE) with the approval of the appropriate Minister
Mr. Roy Beggs Senior	Ulster Unionist Party	Appointed on 20 January 2006 to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) with the approval of the appropriate Minister

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of electoral malpractice were reported by the police to the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland in each year since 2000. [129412]

Paul Goggins: The Director of Public Prosecutions received reports of eight offences relating to electoral malpractice from the PSNI since 2000:

three offences in 2005 (one defendant);
two offences in 2002 (one defendant);
one offence in 2001 (one defendant);
two offences in 2000 (one defendant).

Elections: Proof of Identity

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of people turned away from polling stations in each constituency in Northern Ireland on 7 March for not having the correct identification. [127131]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides a breakdown by constituency of how many people were turned away from the polling station for not producing the correct photographic identification at the Assembly elections held on 7 March. It also provides a further breakdown of the types of invalid identification which were produced.

The total number of people turned away at polling stations for having the incorrect identification was 4,161 out of a total of 700,699 who turned up to vote (0.6 per cent.). It is not known whether these people returned with the correct identification. This compares with the 3,493 out of 702,249 people turned away for the same reason for the 2003 Assembly election.

Constituency	*No documents*	*Out of date Driving Licence*	*Out of date Passport*	*Out of date Smart Pass*	*Works pass*	*Allowance book*	*Medical card*	*Student I.D*	*Foreign I.D*	*Other*[1]	*Totals*
Belfast West	25	47	84	20	24	7	10	29	—	22	268
Belfast East	31	43	35	16	6	1	5	2	3	13	155
Belfast North	42	33	48	17	8	—	6	10	2	30	196
Belfast South	33	49	33	12	9	—	3	3	7	29	178
Strangford	25	57	30	7	5	—	1	3	—	28	156
North Down	23	35	16	2	1	1	4	1	—	27	110
North Antrim	42	103	38	11	5	—	8	2	1	50	260
Mid Ulster	21	143	28	8	12	1	4	11	4	63	295
Upper Bann	23	87	53	22	10	3	9	5	11	48	271
Newry and Armagh	54	162	82	24	9	1	9	4	6	62	413

Constituency	No documents	Out of date Driving Licence	Out of date Passport	Out of date Smart Pass	Works pass	Allowance book	Medical card	Student I.D	Foreign I.D	Other[1]	Totals
Lagan Valley	29	70	33	21	9	—	3	7	6	23	201
South Down	53	128	34	12	13	1	8	2	—	22	273
Foyle	25	82	64	16	14	—	3	4	1	25	234
East Londonderry	26	61	30	21	13	1	4	2	—	39	197
West Tyrone	31	52	48	30	11	—	7	7	2	39	227
Fermanagh and S. Tyrone	40	185	49	16	9	1	8	8	16	55	387
East Antrim	21	52	17	18	6	—	2	5	2	31	154
South Antrim	30	67	28	20	8	1	3	1	3	25	186
Totals	574	1456	750	293	172	18	97	106	64	631	4161

[1] Includes store cards, photocopied documents, HMCR documents etc.

Energy Policy Progress Review

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in relation to the Energy Review. [129664]

Maria Eagle: Following on from the Energy Review of July 2006, "The Energy Challenge", the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is currently preparing a UK Energy White Paper. DTI has invited input from Northern Ireland on how the local administration is contributing to implementation of UK Energy Policy and the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI), has provided information on the current position and also future plans.

Invest Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much assistance was offered to existing companies in the Limavady borough council area by Invest Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [129777]

Maria Eagle: Over the past three years (to end of March 2006), Invest NI has offered £14,957,383 of assistance to existing companies in the Limavady borough council area. This has been broken down in the following table.

	£ Assistance
2003-04	4,924,670
2004-05	423,114
2005-06	9,609,599
Total	14,957,383

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Telephone Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Police Service of Northern Ireland spent on external consultants in relation to improving call handling in each of the last five years; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such expenditure. [128027]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland expenditure on external consultants in relation to improving call handling in the last five years is as follows:

Table 1: External expenditure on consultancy in relation to improving call handling

Financial year	External consultancy (£)
2002-03	7,000
2003-04	—
2004-05	31,489
2005-06	30,062
2006-07 (To date)	—
Total	68,551

These costs were incurred by the PSNI, through its Information Management Steering Group, in establishing a Call Management project appraising how best to take forward call management within the PSNI over the next 20 years.

The spend represents value for money in effectively delivering the outline specification for the project in line with Recommendation 93 of The Report of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland (Patten Report) requires the PSNI to prepare and deliver an IT strategy that will

". .deliver fully integrated technology systems that are readily accessible to all staff, and should take advantage of the best analytical and communications systems currently available".

PSNI expenditure in call management is of the order of £40 million per annum. The call centre handling project is in the early stages of business appraisal.

Regeneration

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what regeneration projects received funding from his Department in each of the last six years; and at what cost. [128118]

Mr. Hannon: Regeneration (both urban and rural) has been funded by NI Departments through a number of programmes and projects as shown in the following table. Figures are presented showing resource and capital expenditure. For the first five years these figures are actual outturn (2001 to 2006), while projected expenditure is used for the current financial year (2006-07). It would have been possible to provide a response detailing each individual project only at disproportionate cost.

Regeneration expenditure 2001 to 2007

£000

	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
Project/funding stream	*Res*	*Cap*	*Res*	*Cap*	*Res*	*Cap*
OFMDFM						
ILEX	—	—	—	—	146	—
Maze/Long Kesh	—	—	—	—	473	—
	—	—	—	—	619	—
DSD—Urban regeneration						
Belfast Regeneration Office	6,766	—	5,549	879	4,640	—
Londonderry Regeneration Initiative	87	—	1,428	260	904	—
Expenditure by other Departments	838	1,466	881	203	495	13
Urban Development Grants	—	8,062	—	3,565	—	1,678
CRISP/CERS	—	4,606	—	2,354	—	1,954
Environmental Improvement	1,743	—	1,260	—	1,466	—
Laganside	6,631	—	6,745	189	6,166	42
ILEX	—	—	—	—	210	—
Omagh Task Force	44	—	45	—	62	—
Travelling People (DC Grant)	—	44	—	12	—	19
Neighbourhood Renewal	—	—	—	—	727	2,881
Areas at Risk	—	—	—	—	—	—
Urban Post Offices	—	—	—	—	—	—
Festivals	—	—	—	—	—	—
BSP Measure 3.1	2,635	—	1,427	—	1,408	—
Peace II Measure 2.11	26	—	25	—	5,778	—
Urban II	14	—	167	—	1,205	—
	18,784	14,178	17,527	7,462	23,062	3,706
DARD—Rural regeneration						
Battery Harbour Project	—	9	—	—	—	—
Glenariff Forest Walkway (repairs0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure/Tourism Development	—	—	—	—	—	—
NI Rural Development programme	5,898	—	3,343	—	13,102	—
S. Down Fishing Villages	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5,898	9	3,343	—	13,102	460
Total	24,682	14,187	20,869	7,462	36,784	4,166

£000

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Project/funding stream	*Res*	*Cap*	*Res*	*Cap*	*Res*	*Cap*
OFMDFM						
ILEX	948	—	1,092	—	1,352	—
Maze/Long Kesh	1,093	—	492	—	1,869	1,000
	2,041	—	1,584	—	3,221	1,000
DSD—Urban regeneration						
Belfast Regeneration Office	3,210	—	1,155	1,604	245	1,251
Londonderry Regeneration Initiative	193	—	91	—	—	—
Expenditure by other Departments	579	—	1,565	1,051	1,346	1,728
Urban Development Grants	—	923	—	1,148	—	2,395
CRISP/CERS	—	1,343	—	557	—	1,297

£000

Project/funding stream	2004-05 Rec	2004-05 Cap	2005-06 Rec	2005-06 Cap	2006-07 Rec	2006-07 Cap
Environmental Improvement	2,000	—	1,320	3,443	1,100	5,799
Laganside	5,313	1,819	5,300	100	6,503	1,193
ILEX	641	—	675	—	1,045	—
Omagh Task Force	39	—	46	—	79	—
Travelling People (DC Grant)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neighbourhood Renewal	2,881	—	7,486	417	10,960	4,670
Areas at Risk	—	—	—	—	324	—
Urban Post Offices	—	50	—	44	—	50
Festivals	—	—	274	—	—	—
BSP Measure 3.1	978	—	—	—	—	—
Peace II Measure 2.11	2,848	—	3,468	—	3,022	—
Urban II	1,667	—	1,766	—	2,126	—
	18,393	4,135	22,965	8,364	26,749	18,383
DARD—Rural regeneration						
Battery Harbour Project	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glenariff Forest Walkway (repairs)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure/Tourism Development	—	—	—	60	—	—
NI Rural Development programme	16,787	3,880	17,703	4,776	13,567	5,002
S. Down Fishing Villages	—	—	—	—	292	374
	16,787	3,880	17,703	4,836	13,859	5,376
Total	37,221	8,015	42,253	13,200	43,830	24,759

In addition, a number of projects have also been funded through the Department for Social Development from EU funds which have been recorded in calendar years. Under the Urban I funding stream a total of £954,000 was paid to projects in 2001 and £87,000 was paid in 2002. Under the Peace I programme, a total of £25,471,000 was paid to regeneration projects in Northern Ireland during the period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 2001. Under the EU Physical, Social and Environmental Programme (PSEP) a total of £34,000 was paid in 2001.

Tunes Plateau Wind Farm

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects a decision on a proposed offshore wind farm at Tunes Plateau to be made. [129780]

Maria Eagle: No application has been received in relation to consents that would be needed for the development of a wind farm at Tunes Plateau; it is therefore not possible for me to predict a timeframe for a decision.

Water Service: Standards

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many water leaks were reported to the Water Service in each of the last three years; and what the average length of time taken to repair water leaks was over the same period. [128114]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan, dated 28 March 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about how many water leaks were reported to the Water Service in each of the last three years; and what the average length of time taken to repair water leaks was over the same period (128114). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

The number of water leaks reported to Water Service from 2003/04 to 2006/07 is set out below.

	Number of leaks reported
2003-04	[1]9,845
2004-05	10,658
2005-06	10,289
2006-07	10,176

[1] The 2003-04 figure is an estimate as the information for that year was not captured in the same format as the other years.

Water Service logs all reported defects in the public water mains and monitors progress through a Work Management System. Repairs are undertaken by a combination of in-house resources and approved contractors and the times taken to complete repairs are monitored to ensure they comply with set targets. These range from 2 to 7 days, depending on the nature of the defect, and they are normally achieved. Exceptions arise as a result of restrictions imposed by the location and nature of the defect. Unfortunately, Water Service does not specifically record average timescales for repairing reported leaks and the information requested could only be extracted manually at disproportionate cost.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what targets are in place to cut the amount of water lost through leakage in Northern Ireland. [128136]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Katharine Bryan, dated 28 March 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about what targets are in place to cut the amount of water lost through leakage in Northern Ireland (128136). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

Leakage reduction in a network of approximately 26,500 kilometres of water mains and around 6 million joins in the network is a complex issue that requires significant planning and, to this end, Water Service has in place an active Leakage Reduction Action Plan containing phased annual reduction targets. The targets from 2002/03 are set out in the table below:

	Target	*Megalitres per day Achieved*
2002-03	291	291
2003-04	233	231
2004-05	205	203
2005-06	179	178
2006-07	169	On target
2007-08	157	[1]—
2008-09	146	[1]—
2009-10	136	[1]—

[1] Subject to board approval.

Since March 2003, Water Service has reduced leakage from 291 Megalitres per day (Ml/d) to 178 Megalitres per day in March 2006 and is on target to achieve 169 Ml/d by 31 March this year. We are currently undertaking a review of the "economic level of leakage", however, it is expected that the existing level of 165 Ml/d will be achieved by March 2008. The economic level of leakage is defined as the point at which it would cost more to make further reductions than to produce the water from another source.

The targets from 2007/08 are provisional and subject to ratification by the Board of Northern Ireland Water.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Broadband: EC Action

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the EU is taking *(a)* to advance broadband coverage in member states and *(b)* to promote the take up of mobile phone technology. [121066]

Margaret Hodge: With our strong support the EU is working hard to create a more dynamic and internationally competitive single market for broadband and mobile services accessible to all across Europe. Its current work is largely through the i2010 programme for the information society which was developed and agreed during the UK's presidency, came into effect on 1 January 2006 and lasts until 2010 with a mid-term review in 2008. The i2010 programme includes measures to improve the regulatory framework for electronic communications services like broadband and mobile as well as measures to promote innovation and inclusion including take-up in the less developed regions of Europe. On broadband coverage the Commission is working with a wide range of regional and other interests on the proposals in its Communication last year, "Bridging the Broadband Gap", and has been working with member states and regional authorities to enable public funding of broadband in rural and other areas in accordance with state aid rules. On mobile the EU is also taking action to reduce charges for roaming between national mobile networks.

The proportion of mobile phone subscriptions relative to population in the EU is 93 per cent. one of the highest in the world. In several member states, including the UK, there are more mobile phones than people. A comparable figure for broadband is not available for the whole of the EU. In the 15 older member states it averaged 16 per cent. last year compared with 19 per cent. in Japan, 19.2 per cent. in the USA and 19.4 per cent. in the UK.

Companies: Environmental Protection

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department plans to monitor the *(a)* effects and *(b)* costs of the duties upon directors in the Companies Act 2006 in relation to social and environmental issues. [127274]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* The Government will review the impacts of the Companies Act 2006 on duties of directors, including the references to social and environmental issues, as part of its review of the overall benefits and costs of the Companies Act 2006. This review will form part of the normal regulatory assessment process, consistent with better regulation principles. The review will involve close engagement with stakeholders who have an interest in the effects of the Act.

Departmental Gifts

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the gifts received by special advisers in his Department and declared to his Department in 2005-06; on what date each gift was given; what the estimated cost was of each gift; what was given; and what the name of the donor was. [117950]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 February 2007]:* Any gifts received are handled in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Departmental Policy Advisers

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what notices of external employment were given by special advisers in his Department in each of the last two years. [117953]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 February 2007]:* The rules for civil servants, including special advisers, who wish to take up other employment in addition to their civil service duties are set out in section 4.3 of the civil service management code. Such information is not normally made public.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [130009]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of such expenditure are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of relative energy use of *(a)* digital and *(b)* analogue broadcast receiving devices. [129485]

Margaret Hodge: The Government through their Market Transformation Programme (MTP) have analysed the performances of over 630 televisions sold in 2004, 2005, and 2006 and have concluded that the difference in energy consumption between analogue and integrated digital televisions (IDTVs) is negligible.

The annual energy consumption of a television varies significantly with screen size and television type, and defining what constitutes a 'typical' television is difficult. However, for a 32in. widescreen cathode-ray television, MTP estimates that the annual energy consumption will be 292 kWh, and 310 kWh for a LCD screen of the same size. A 42in. (a typical size for this technology) Plasma TV will consume 746 kWh per year.

The total energy consumption of all UK televisions has risen in recent years, but this is not as a result of the presence of integrated digital tuners but a function of increased TV ownership, the trend towards larger screen sizes, and the migration away from cathode-ray televisions to other technologies.

MTP does not currently have sufficient information to provide a comparison between the performance of analogue and digital (DAB) radios. However, MTP has identified that many portable DAB radios are supplied with external power supply units which are less efficient—and therefore consume more energy—than those sold with comparable analogue products. MTP will be working with retailers and manufacturers to seek to address this issue.

As these are relatively new products, there are likely to be efficiency gains as the products mature.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many postdoctoral fellowships were awarded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council in financial year *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and how many are budgeted for the financial year 2007-08. [130613]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows.

	Fellowships
Postdoctoral fellowships (0-3 years postdoc. experience)	
2004-05	19
2005-06	23
2006-07	31
Advanced research fellowships (3-10 years postdoc experience)	
2004-05	40
2005-06	50
2006-07	51
Senior research fellowships	
2004-05	3
2005-06	6
2006-07	6
Statistics mobility fellowships	
2006-07	6

EPSRC also support the following fellowships in conjunction with other organisations:

Hodge fellowships

Two one-year fellowships a year with and through the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques.

Royal Academy of Engineering (postdoctoral research fellowships)

	Number
2004-05	8
2005-06	10
2006-07	8

Royal Society industry fellowships

	£
2004-05	200,000
2005-06	200,000
2006-07	250,000

The number of awards funded vary each year.

EPSRC are currently reviewing its support of fellowships. The outcome of this review will be known by the end of May 2007. Therefore, the total number of awards is not available for 2007-08.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding was allocated to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to fund postdoctoral fellowships in financial years *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and what the budget is for the financial year 2007-08. [130614]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows.

	£
Postdoctoral fellowships (0-3 years postdoc. experience)	
2004-05	2,408,000
2005-06	3,244,000
2006-07	7,064,000
Advanced research fellowships (3-10 years postdoc. experience)	
2004-05	9,896,000
2005-06	13,374,000
2006-07	26,276,000
Senior research fellowships	
2004-05	1,011,000
2005-06	2,321,000
2006-07	5,097,000
Statistics mobility fellowships	
2006-07	1,378,000

EPSRC also support the following fellowships in conjunction with other organisations:

	£
Royal Academy of Engineering	
2004-05	1,055,000
2005-06	1,317,000
2006-07	1,650,000
Royal Society industry fellowships	
2004-05	200,000
2005-06	200,000
2006-07	200,000

The number of awards funded vary each year.

Hodge fellowships

Two one-year fellowships a year with and through the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques.

EPSRC are currently reviewing its support of fellowships. The outcome of this review will be known by the end of May 2007. Therefore, the total budget is not available for EPSRC fellowship schemes for 2007-08.

Programme Making and Special Events Sector

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the value of the programme making and special events sector to the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [126311]

Margaret Hodge: We have not made an estimate of the value of the programme making and special events sector to the UK economy, but we are conscious of its importance.

The Office of Communications (Ofcom), the independent regulator of communications, is responsible for managing civil radio spectrum in the UK, including the allocation and licensing of frequency bands used by the programme making and special events (PMSE) sector. As part of its digital dividend review, Ofcom published a consultation paper on the Ofcom website (www.ofcom.org.uk) in December 2006. The consultation period is open until 20 March, during which time all interested parties, including those with a specific interest in PMSE requirements, are encouraged to make their views known.

They have received significant interest in their consultation from the programme making and special events (PMSE) sector and are planning a farther consultation on this matter in the near future.

I do understand that the PMSE sector is one of the current users of the DDR spectrum which is being required to change its use and that this has cost implications. As such, a period of transition may be necessary, and fully understanding the impact of any changes on the sector is vital. Officials have, and will continue to engage with stakeholders and Ofcom following the consultation. By exploring the issues, and working together, we hope that a solution can be found which meets the public interest and ensures that the PMSE sector can access appropriate spectrum fit for purpose.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from the programme making and special events sector regarding the digital dividend review. [126312]

Margaret Hodge: I have received representations from the organisation Equity. The Office of Communications (Ofcom), the independent regulator of communications, is responsible for managing civil radio spectrum in the UK, including the allocation and licensing of frequency bands used by the programme making and special events (PMSE) sector. Any representation on Ofcom's spectrum consultations is a matter for the regulator; any received by the Department will be passed on to the chief executive officer.

As part of its digital dividend review, Ofcom published a consultation paper on the Ofcom website (www.ofcom.org.uk) in December 2006. The consultation period is open until 20 March, during which time all interested parties, including those with a specific interest in PMSE requirements, are encouraged to make their views known.

They have received significant interest in their consultation from the programme making and special events (PMSE) sector and are planning a further consultation on this matter in the near future.

I do understand that the PMSE sector is one of the current users of the DDR spectrum which is being required to change its use and that this has cost implications. As such, a period of transition may be necessary, and fully understanding the impact of any changes on the sector is vital. Officials have, and will continue to engage with stakeholders and Ofcom following the consultation. By exploring the issues, and working together, we hope that a solution can be found which meets the public interest and ensures that the PMSE sector can access appropriate spectrum fit for purpose.

Incinerators

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on waste incineration. [128707]

Malcolm Wicks: Officials of both Departments collaborate routinely and on a wide range of issues. These have included waste incineration matters.

IPPR

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding *(a)* the North West Development Agency, *(b)* one NorthEast, *(c)* the London Development Agency, *(d)* the East of England Development Agency and *(e)* the South East England Development Agency provided to (i) the IPPR and (ii) IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since their creation. [124215]

Margaret Hodge: The following tables show North West Regional Development Agency's, One North East's, London Development Agency's, East of England Development Agency's and South East of England Development Agency's payments to the Institute for

Public Policy Research (IPPR), their total grant in aid budget and the proportion of payments to IPPR as a percentage of their total budget from 2002-03 to the present date. I am informed that no payments have been made to the Institute for Public Policy Research Trading Limited by these RDAs.

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
	Total budget (£ million)	IPPR (£000)	Percentage	Total budget (£ million)	IPPR (£000)	Percentage	Total budget (£ million)	IPPR (£000)	Percentage
North West regional Development Agency	274	0	0	309	0	0	367	20	0.005
One North East	193	0	0	223	20	0.008	227	5	0.002
London Development Agency	295	18	0.006	317	43	0.01	328	0	0
East of England Development Agency	88	0	0	80	0	0	84	9.5	0.011
South East England Development Agency	112	0	0	136	0	0	110	0	0

	2005-06			2006-07		
	Total budget (£ million)	IPPR (£000)	Percentage	Total budget (£ million)	IPPR (£000)	Percentage
North West regional Development Agency	382	00	0	400	22	0.005
One North East	240	0	0	251	65	0.025
London Development Agency	373	10	0.002	391	0	0
East of England Development Agency	129	5	0.003	134	5	0.003
South East England Development Agency	157	1.6	0.001	163	5	0.003

Nuclear Power

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1778W, on nuclear power, which stakeholders *(a)* he, *(b)* departmental Ministers and *(c)* officials have met to discuss the use of nuclear energy in the United Kingdom since the publication of the Energy Review Report. [130291]

Malcolm Wicks: Government are taking forward development of the policy proposals set out in the Energy Review Report and is preparing for a further consultation on nuclear power. Formal and informal discussions with stakeholders have been a key part of informing this work. We expect to publish the Energy White Paper and the new nuclear consultation in May.

Patents: EU Action

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with EU counterparts on the European Community patent. [130485]

Malcolm Wicks: UK Ministers and officials have had ongoing discussions with the European Commission and others, following the consultation launched by the Commission in 2006 on the Community Patent and other initiatives to improve the European Patent system. Negotiations on a Community Patent have been ongoing for a number of decades, and have been complicated by questions around language and jurisdiction. As the European Commission Consultation in 2006 noted, there appears no imminent prospect of achieving the unanimity required in order to establish a Community Patent. The consultation aimed to find steps which could be taken to improve the European patent system in the near future, which would help us to make progress towards the long term goal of a Community Patent. We anticipate that the Commission will publish its Communication on those next steps in the next few months.

Phoenix Holdings: MG Rover

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made in his Department's inquiry into Phoenix Holdings'

involvement in MG Rover; what the costs to all parties involved have been to date; and if he will make a statement. [127002]

Margaret Hodge: The Companies Act Inspection is being conducted independently of the DTI. The inspectors are not constrained by any Government target date for completion as the Government do not want to impede the thoroughness of the Inspection. The Inspectors do intend to complete this inspection as quickly as possible, consistent with a proper and fair process. The total costs of the inspection to the Department as at 28 February 2007 were £6,557,614 plus VAT of £1,207,257 and disbursements of £340,999.

Post Offices: Closures

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will postpone the abolition of Postwatch until the end of the consultation on the Post Office closure process. [130367]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Discussions between Post Office Ltd and Postwatch are in progress and we expect to set out Postwatch's role in developing local area closure proposals when our decision is announced in May.

The Government have included specific provision in the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Bill to ensure that the new National Consumer Council has a statutory role, as Postwatch does now, in advising on the number and location of post offices and their accessibility to users. The provisions in the Bill are designed to strengthen consumer representation in the postal services sector.

We are working closely with Postwatch, Energywatch and the National Consumer Council to ensure that the new arrangements are implemented effectively and with the minimum of disruption to consumers.

Radio Frequencies: Licensing

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on *(a)* the proposal by the EC Radio Spectrum Committee to allow the refarming of 2G spectrum for 3G use and *(b)* how to address historic spectrum allocations in implementing such a policy in the UK. [127674]

Margaret Hodge: The matter is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the Houses.

Research Councils: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment he has made of the impact on the research councils' budgets of not authorising them to utilise end-of-year flexibility in 2007-08; [130432]

(2) what steps he plans to take to elicit the necessary authorisation from HM Treasury to allow the research councils to utilise end of year flexibility during 2007-08. [130433]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answers 28 March 2007]:* The Department of Trade and Industry continues to have access to End Year Flexibility in the normal way and this will continue to be available to cascade down to Research Councils. My officials are in discussion with Treasury officials about drawdown of End Year Flexibility in 2007-08. An early consultation by DTI officials with the Research Councils has provided robust and realistic forecast spending requirements for 2007-08.

Science and Technology Budget

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the science budget is for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [131024]

Mr. Darling: The science and technology budget this year is £3.4 billion, having doubled since 1997, and last week in the Budget my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a further rise in spending to £3.9 billion in 2010-11; the figure of £4.9 billion referred to on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1358, is incorrect and is in fact £3.9 billion.

Wind Power: Gwynt y Mor

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to announce his decision on the application by Npower Renewables for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the development of the Gwynt y Mor wind farm. [129000]

Malcolm Wicks: I cannot give a firm indication of when my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be in a position to reach a decision on the Gwynt y Mor consent application. The applicant is currently engaged in a programme of discussions with stakeholders about issues raised in response to the application. No decision will be taken until the applicant has responded formally to the Department on these matters.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received from officials following their visit to Ascension Island in March. [130394]

Mr. Hoon: Officials reported their discussions with the Ascension Island Council on new policies, including housing, to my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, on 19 March. Officials noted that it was difficult to reach agreement on some issues, but that agreement was reached on much of the detail of the

draft housing policy; and that discussions concluded with an acknowledgement that there was more work required.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what efforts are being made to engage with those living on Ascension Island on the future plans for the island. [130395]

Mr. Hoon: Before the recent resignations by councillors, the administrator held regular informal and formal meetings with the Ascension Island Council. The Governor also participated regularly in meetings of the council. Following the councillors' resignations, we are considering urgently how to proceed, and are taking steps to ensure that those working and living on Ascension Island are fully informed. The Acting Governor will issue a leaflet this week providing advice for those on the island considering standing for election.

ASEAN

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with ASEAN leaders on expediting the resettlement of refugees in the region. [129966]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders on expediting the resettlement of refugees in the region.

However, the UK works with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on the issue of the resettlement of refugees, including those in the ASEAN region. Applications for resettlement are assessed by UNHCR staff against a clear set of criteria.

Burma: Democracy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings UK Government officials have had with *(a)* the Karen National Union, *(b)* the Kachin Independence Organisation and *(c)* other ethnic organisations working for democracy in Burma. [130606]

Mr. McCartney: There have been no meetings with representatives from the Karen National Union or the Kachin Independence Organisation.

Officials are in regular contact with a range of organisations working for democracy in Burma.

Most recently, I met representatives from the Chin Human Rights Organisation, Women's League of Chinland and Kachin National Organisation on 24 January.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Democratic Republic of the Congo on the arrest and trial of Marie-Thérèse Nlandu and others; and if she will make a statement. [130232]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are closely following the continued detention of Mme. Nlandu. Our ambassador in Kinshasa has raised the case of Mme. Nlandu on several occasions with Congolese Ministers, the Congolese Interior Minister and President Kabila's advisors. He raised the case with President Kabila himself in February. Embassy officials have also been present during some of her appearances in court and visited her in prison last month. We continue to monitor her situation and treatment closely. International partners are doing the same.

Departments: Personation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to raise awareness of the dangers of identity fraud among departmental employees. [130429]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides advice to its staff on the dangers of identity fraud and internet security through its intranet security advice web pages, other publications and training courses.

Gaza

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the freedom of EU monitors to access the Rafah border checkpoint in the Gaza strip; and if she will make a statement. [128890]

Margaret Beckett: We, along with our EU partners, are concerned at the impact of the frequent closures of the Kerem Shalom crossing which means EU border assistance monitors have to withdraw from Rafah causing the crossing to close. The EU is in regular discussion with both sides to enable the Rafah border crossing to be as effective as possible.

We are aware of the importance of the Rafah crossing point to the Palestinian people. We continue to call upon both sides to implement fully the November 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has considered the possibility of stationing EU officials monitoring the Rafah border checkpoint between Gaza and Egypt on the Egyptian side of the border; what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on this issue; what the outcome was of these discussions; and if she will make a statement. [128891]

Margaret Beckett: I have had no recent discussions about this issue with my EU counterparts. Under the strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee, EU officials are currently examining options to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the Rafah border crossing in the context of the possible renewal of the EU mission's mandate in May 2007.

Horn of Africa and Sudan

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*,

column 823W, on the Horn of Africa and Sudan, whether any of the representatives of the parties to the conflict in the Horn of Africa and Sudan whom Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have met in the last 12 months are members of organisations included on the *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU list of proscribed terrorist organisations; and if she will make a statement. [121381]

Mr. McCartney: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have met no representatives of the parties to the conflict in the Horn of Africa and Sudan who are members of organisations included on the UK and EU list of proscribed terrorist organisations in the last 12 months.

Marc Swanson

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 838, on Marc Swanson, on which dates her officials in Brazil have had contact with the *(a)* Brazilian Ministry of Justice and *(b)* local police; and what information was received on each occasion. [130426]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* Our consulate in Rio de Janeiro first made contact with the Brazilian authorities about the disappearance of Marc Swanson on 25 November 2003. They have continued to follow the investigation and remind the local authorities of our interest in resolving the case. Our embassy in Brasilia submitted a letter on behalf of Marc's mother on 15 August 2006, through the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the attention of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Reminders were sent on 5 October 2006 and 14 January 2007. Following further inquiries we can confirm that the MoJ requested clarification on the case from the Secretary for Public Security (MoPS) in the state of Rio de Janeiro where Marc Swanson was reported as missing. The MoJ sent a reminder to the MoPS in February 2007. The MoJ informed us that the MoPS have assured them that they will intensify their investigation into the case, including further involvement with the police in the state of Rio de Janeiro. We will continue to press the Brazilian authorities to conduct a full and thorough investigation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will reply to the letter of 6 February 2007 from the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes on Mr. Ken Hawkins, a constituent, of Willows End House, Milton Keynes, MK15 8AZ. [130358]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* I understand that the hon. Member's question refers to his letter of 28 February to which my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe will be replying this week.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1843W, on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, whether any informal representations have been made *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly to the UK Government on Trident and the UK's compliance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. [129945]

Mr. McCartney: No informal representations with respect to non-compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) have been made directly to the UK by another state party to the treaty. We are also unaware of any indirect statements to this effect. As stated in the 2006 White Paper 'The future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrence' and accompanying fact sheets: renewing the current Trident system is fully consistent with the NPT and with all our international obligations.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1843W, on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, whether any states have made informal representations on UK compliance. [130776]

Mr. Hoon: We have no record of any recent informal representations by any states on UK compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Treaty entered into force in 1970. A thorough search of all historical records since then would incur disproportionate cost.

Pakistan: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of Pakistan on its blasphemy laws and hudood ordinances. [130671]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, visited Pakistan in November 2006 and raised the issue of human rights with the Government of Pakistan. He welcomed the adoption of the Women's Protection Bill in November 2006, which made significant amendments to the hudood legislation governing rape and adultery, as an important step by the Government of Pakistan.

In subsequent correspondence with the Government of Pakistan in February, my right hon. Friend raised the abuse of the blasphemy laws and the impact on religious minorities in particular.

We will continue to raise our human rights concerns with the Government of Pakistan, bilaterally and together with our EU partners.

Saudi Arabia

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if she will raise the case of Mr. Razig Gorji, his late wife and the safety of Hajj pilgrimage travel with the Saudi authorities. [129960]

Mr. McCartney: Following the bus crash near Rabigh in Saudi Arabia on 9 December 2006 when three British nationals—including Mr Gorji's wife—

died, our ambassador in Riyadh met the Saudi Arabian Minister of Hajj on 10 February and raised the issue of travel safety for pilgrims during the Hajj.

The Minister explained that new measures to improve travel safety would be introduced from next year. These would include:

a requirement that each bus must have two drivers;

a ban to be introduced on all buses carrying pilgrims between Mecca and Medina, after 11 pm; and

the development of a new train project between Mecca and Medina.

The safety of British nationals abroad is a priority for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and we welcome these new initiatives.

Sudan

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports she has received on the recent use of air attacks by the Sudanese airforce on civilian targets in Darfur; and what progress has been made with her discussions with allies on introducing and enforcing a no-fly zone in Darfur. [129876]

Mr. McCartney: The most recent aerial bombardment we are aware of in Darfur was on 11 February. This was reported by the African Union Mission in Sudan. We have condemned the Sudanese Government for mounting this attack. Although we are not aware of any aerial bombardments since then, the Government of Sudan retains the capacity to mount future bombing raids.

We believe the UN Security Council should impose further measures on those responsible for violating UN Security Council Resolution 1591. In particular, we are pressing for improved monitoring of offensive military flights in and over the Darfur region. We will be taking this forward with our Security Council partners in the coming days. We continue to consider the possibility of imposing a No Fly Zone.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the prospects for success of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan. [130298]

Mr. McCartney: President Bashir and First Vice President Kiir re-affirmed their commitment to implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) during its second anniversary celebrations in January. But these statements need to be underpinned by serious action. Although there have been advances, not least the formation of the Government of National Unity and the remitting of oil revenues to the south, major issues under the CPA remain outstanding. Of these, resolving the Abyei dispute, north/south border demarcation and initiating election preparations are among the most important. These pose a credible threat to the CPA's future and ordinary Sudanese people's belief that making peace brings about positive change. The UK continues to press for more rapid progress through its membership of the CPA implementation monitoring body—the Assessment and Evaluation Commission. The UK stressed the importance of CPA implementation at the 20-21 March second Sudan Consortium.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role her Department is playing in the negotiations between the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and the Government in Sudan on boundary disputes to be settled as part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [130299]

Mr. McCartney: The absence of an agreed north/south border has major implications for meeting key security and wealth sharing milestones. The Border Committee's work needs urgent acceleration to ensure this matter is resolved as quickly as possible. International partners, including the UK, stand ready to help. Through the UK's seat on the Assessment and Evaluation Commission—the international body established to monitor the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)—we will continue to press for the Border Committee to complete its work as soon as possible.

Deadlock on the Abyei Boundary Commission's recommendations must be broken. As an interim step, the UK, with partners, has been pressing the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to agree to establish a civil administration in Abyei to ensure the delivery of basic services to local residents.

Uganda

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has made recent representations to the Ugandan government on its relationship with the Presidential candidate Jean-Pierre Bemba and the Mouvement de Libération du Congo. [130513]

Mr. McCartney: We have regular high-level discussions with members of Uganda's government and have regularly raised Uganda's role in stability in the region. We have not made any recent representations specifically regarding the Democratic Republic of Congo's opposition leader Jean-Pierre Bemba or the Mouvement de Libération du Congo.

Our High Commissioner in Kampala saw President Museveni most recently on 28 February to discuss efforts to resolve the conflict in northern Uganda and concerns over the rule of law in relation to the detention of the alleged People's Redemption Army suspects.

Uganda: Zimbabwe

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Ugandan government on its recent rejection of a Parliamentary motion to condemn human rights violations in Zimbabwe. [130512]

Mr. McCartney: Our High Commissioner in Kampala called on the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 March to discuss the government's position towards Zimbabwe and to seek its support for an EU statement at the Human Rights Council condemning recent human rights abuses in that country.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe will next be reviewed; and whether the UK will advocate a strengthening of the Common Position. [128587]

Margaret Beckett: The EU Common Position was renewed for a further 12 months on 19 February. The targeted measures it contains can be reviewed and amended by unanimity at any time. We will propose to EU partners that the key perpetrators of the violence on 11 March should be added to the list of those subject to a visa ban and assets freeze.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by her Department to raise the issue of Zimbabwe at *(a)* the United Nations Security Council and *(b)* other United Nations bodies; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of these efforts; and if she will make a statement. [129484]

Margaret Beckett: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, condemned the government of Zimbabwe in his speech to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 March. While there, he also discussed the situation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who herself has made a statement. Our Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva also raised Zimbabwe at the Human Rights Council on 14 March. In response to our concerns, the UN High Commissioner agreed to monitor the judicial process directed against Mr. Tsvangarai and his colleagues. We are also pressing for further action in the UN Human Rights Council.

We have welcomed the statement made by the UN Secretary-General. On 16 March, our Permanent Representative to the UN in New York raised Zimbabwe with the Secretary-General and Security Council ambassadors. As a result, the Secretary-General has agreed to arrange an urgent briefing on the humanitarian situation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has had discussions with the New Partnership for African Development on whether Zimbabwe has been *(a)* through the Partnership's peer review mechanism and *(b)* assessed for its human rights record. [130511]

Mr. McCartney: Zimbabwe has not been examined under the New Partnership for African Development peer review process, this is a voluntary process. But the Africa Commission on People and Human Rights has been asked to report on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe at a future session of the African Union's Executive Council.

Zimbabwe: Sequestration of Assets

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Zimbabwean individuals have been placed on the EU's sanctions list; which Zimbabwean institution each relevant individual represents; what the estimated value is of each individual's assets frozen under EU sanctions; and if she will make a statement. [128892]

Margaret Beckett: There are currently 125 Zimbabweans named on the EU's assets freeze and travel ban list. A copy of the list will be placed in the Library of the House. Another five will be added as a result of a recent ministerial reshuffle. All members of President Mugabe's Cabinet and ZANU-PF's Politburo are included, together with governors, heads of the security forces, election officials and others associated with abuses. In the United Kingdom, 42 accounts containing a total of £172,000 are currently frozen.

HEALTH

North West Ambulance Service

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect on levels of demand for the North West Ambulance Service of private sector clinical assessment, treatment and support coming into service. [129071]

Andy Burnham: Primary care trusts in Cumbria and Lancashire will discuss the effect on demand for ambulance services with the North West Ambulance Service over the coming months as detailed specifications for the independent sector clinical assessment, treatment and support (CATS) services are developed.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women over the age of 70 self-referred for breast cancer screening in *(a)* Surrey Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [129045]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is in the table:

Area	*Self/general practitioner referral for breast screening for women aged 70 and over in 2005-06*	*Self/general practitioner referral for breast screening for women aged 70 and over 2003-04 to 2005-06*
East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey Primary Care Trust	297	770
East Surrey Primary Care Trust	45	409
North Surrey Primary Care Trust	136	431
England	45,990	156,089

Source:
KC63 The Information Centre

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in Bolton have been screened for breast cancer over the last five years. [130388]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information has been set out in the table.

	Numbers screened
2002	13,741
2003	14,823
2004	14,958
2005	14,835
2006	14,590

Note:
Figures refer to women between 60-64 screened in Bolton Primary Care Trust.
Source:
KC63 The Information Centre for health and social care

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the reasons for recent trends in attendance levels for cervical screening by 25 to 29 year-olds. [124395]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2094W, to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess).

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of cervical smears for younger women. [128799]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Research carried out by Cancer Research UK and presented to the Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening coupled with 15 years of experience of screening has shown that screening women under the age of 25 may do more harm than good.

The cervix is still developing in women under 25 and during the cervical screening process, this development can look like cervical abnormalities, giving a false positive result and resulting in unnecessary investigations and treatments.

By increasing the starting age of cervical screening to 25, we are reducing the number of these unnecessary investigations and unnecessary treatments, as well as reducing the anxiety they cause.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, an agency of the World Health Organisation, endorse the current starting age of 25 and recent evidence has show that treatment with LLETZ (large loop excision of the transformation zone), following an abnormal cervical sample test, can cause premature delivery in later pregnancies.

Women under 25 who are concerned about their risk of developing cervical cancer or about sexual health should contact their general practitioner or genito-urinary medicine clinic.

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has any plans to introduce a national human papilloma virus vaccination programme. [129614]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is in the process of thoroughly examining the vaccine safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness evidence concerning human papilloma virus vaccines. The work is being taken forward by a sub-group of JCVI, with further work ongoing to evaluate whether the vaccine is considered to be a cost-effective prevention of cervical cancer and the impact that HPV vaccine may have on genital warts.

The sub group's advice will be reported to the main JCVI committee for further discussion.

No decisions will be taken on introducing these vaccines into the immunisation programme until JCVI has presented its advice to Ministers for their consideration.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by her Department on rates of child abuse by women who have previously had an abortion; and if she will make a statement. [129521]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not commissioned any research in this area but child abuse by women who have previously had an abortion is not known to be a factor in the risk of child abuse.

Dentistry

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made for dental treatment for people in prison. [129895]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In April 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) took full responsibility for commissioning all prison health services in their area including dental health services. PCTs are now responsible for assessing the oral health care needs of the inmates of local prisons and contracting with suitably trained and experienced dental practitioners to meet all reasonable needs.

Departmental Commercial Director

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Department's outgoing commercial director will be involved in the appointment of his successor; and what Civil Service rules apply. [108712]

Caroline Flint: The appointment process falls under the remit of the Office of the Civil Service Commissioners and the provisions of the Commissioners' Recruitment Code. The outgoing Commercial Director will not be involved in the appointment of his successor.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed by her Department on 1 January of each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [124003]

Caroline Flint: The numbers of permanent and temporary civil servants (full-time equivalents) employed by the Department on 1 January in each of the last three years are as follows:

1 January 2007: 2,256 permanent, 45 temporary;

1 January 2006: 2,323 permanent, 72 temporary; and

1 January 2005: 2,341 permanent, 73 temporary.

Figures for 1 January 2004 and 1 January 2003 are not available.

The number of contractors and agency staff (full-time equivalents) working for the Department on 1 January 2007 was 230.

Figures for 1 January for the years 2003-06 are not available.

Diabetes: Medical Equipment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people with diabetes who have not gained access to blood testing strips and blood glucose testing equipment; and if she will make a statement. [128716]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data are not collected on the numbers of people who have not gained access to blood glucose testing strips and blood glucose testing equipment.

Blood glucose testing strips are available on national health service prescriptions and are available free of charge to people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes whose condition is controlled by insulin or tablets.

Diabetes: Screening

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetics visited hospitals and clinics in order to get their blood glucose tested in each year since 1997. [129393]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data are not collected in the format requested.

The table shows the numbers of people with diabetes who received HbA1c (a marker of long-term control of diabetes) or equivalent test in 2004-05 and 2005-06, the latest years for which figures are available:

	Numbers of people aged 17 and over with diagnosed diabetes	*Numbers of people who received a HbA1c or equivalent test in the previous 15 months*
2004-05	1,734,165	1,637,774
2005-06	1,841,571	1,776,415

Source:
The Quality and Outcomes Framework

Food: Packaging

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the merits of requiring food packaging to be tamper proof. [121087]

Caroline Flint: The substance and form of food packaging is the responsibility of food manufacturers.

There are no requirements under food law for packaging to be tamper proof. European Commission General Food Law Regulation 178/2002 requires that food should not be unsafe for consumption. Tamper proof packaging might help meet this requirement but this would be a decision for the business concerned.

GPs: Training

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* content will be of the training to be offered to GPs who wish to take on the role of GP with Special Interest; what hospital specialties she expects to be covered by the programme; what estimate she has made of the number of GPs likely to apply; and if she will make a statement. [128735]

Andy Burnham: The appointment general practitioners with a special interest (GPwSIs) is local matter for primary care trusts. The Department supports this process through guidance, including specific advice on the following specialties:

care for older people;

coronary heart disease;

child protection;

dermatology;

diabetes;

drug misuse;

echocardiography;

emergency care;

ear nose and throat;

epilepsy;

genetics;

headaches;

mental health;

musculoskeletal conditions;

palliative care;

respiratory medicine; and

sexual health.

The Department has commissioned the Royal College of General Practitioners to review these frameworks. Revised versions will be published later this year as competency based specialty frameworks.

On training, the departmental guidance makes it clear a qualification alone is not enough and that GPwSIs should have acquired skills through supervised practice in an appropriate setting. Detailed training requirements are however a local matter and information on such training is not collected centrally.

Heart Diseases: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will commission research into the relationship between levels of air pollution from motor vehicles and rates of heart attack amongst women; and if she will make a statement. [120485]

Caroline Flint: The commissioning of research into this area will need to be considered along with other research priorities.

A paper produced by Miller et al, 2007, on the 'Long-term exposure to air pollution and incidence of cardiovascular events in women', was published in the New England Journal of Medicine 2007; 356: 447-458 on 1 February 2007.

The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants considered this important publication at its meeting on 23 February 2007 and are exploring the findings in more detail, including the need for further research.

Heart Diseases: North West Region

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with the North West Strategic Health Authority on the adequacy of sufficient personnel to operate myocardial perfusion scanners in the region. [128224]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been no discussions between the Department and NHS North West about the staffing of myocardial perfusion scanners in the region.

Hepatitis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research is planned in the next 12 months to ascertain the likely incidence in the UK of all types of chronic hepatitis over the next decade; and if she will make a statement. [129016]

Caroline Flint: The Medical Research Council (MRC) funds a portfolio of basic and underpinning research relating to the various types of hepatitis, which may lead to further understanding of the condition. Research specifically related to the likely incidence of all types of chronic hepatitis over the next decade in this country is not currently being funded.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is carrying out ongoing work to estimate the future burden of hepatitis C-related disease in this country. The HPA and the British Association for the Study of the Liver (BASL) are collaborating on a study of end-stage liver disease in patients who are infected with hepatitis B or C and on a pilot survey of the number of people infected with hepatitis C who are treated and treatment outcome in this country.

Hepatitis C

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2298W, on Hepatitis C, what her assessment is of the reasons for the increase in the number of laboratory cases of Hepatitis C in the London region between 2002 and 2006. [129652]

Caroline Flint: Acute hepatitis C infection usually occurs without symptoms, and there are no laboratory tests to differentiate between acute (recent), chronic (long-standing) or resolved hepatitis C infection. Therefore, trends in the number of laboratory diagnoses reflect the number of individuals being tested, rather than the incidence of infection, and those infections identified may have been acquired years or even decades earlier.

The rise in the number of laboratory diagnoses of hepatitis C in London is likely to reflect greater awareness of hepatitis C and increased testing of individuals as part of the investigation of liver disease (including abnormal liver function), testing in known risk groups or as part of screening (for example for occupational health reasons).

Hospices: Finance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to ensure that hospices receive adequate funding; and if she will make a statement on the future of hospice funding. [121029]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning and funding palliative care services locally, including the level of funding for hospices. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them and to commission service; to meet the healthcare needs of their local population.

As part of the dignity in care for older people initiative, Ministers have recently announced a capital fund of up to 40 million that adult hospices can bid for to improve their environment.

The role of, and funding for hospices are among the issues which will be considered by the end of life care strategy.

We have announced funding of £27 million over 3 years for children's hospice services. The first grants were made in October 2006. We have also established an independent review of the long term sustainability of children's palliative care services (including children's hospices). The review is due to report in spring 2007.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days were occupied by patients with long-term conditions in each year since 1997-98. [123148]

Andy Burnham: Information on the number of hospital bed days occupied by patients with long-term conditions is not collected.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to identify and promote best practice on the management of hospital lengths of stay. [130077]

Andy Burnham: The National Health Service Institute for Innovation and Improvement has published a number of documents that include advice on best practice. These are available on its website at www.institute.nhs.uk and include:

Delivering Value and Quality: Focus on Productivity and Efficiency,

Delivering Value and Quality: Focus on High Volume Care, and

Delivering Value and Quality: Directory of Ambulatory Emergency Care for Adults.

Hospitals Closures: Media Interest

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 39W, on hospital closures (media interest), what methodology was used to arrive at predictions for media interest *(a)* now, *(b)* in the summer, *(c)* in the autumn and *(d)* in the future as indicated on the heat maps released by her Department on 7 November 2006; and for what reasons her Department analysed media interest surrounding potential hospital closures. [118345]

Andy Burnham: It is routine for the Department to monitor media activity and uses a range of methods to do this. The Department produced a set of maps following discussions with strategic health authorities (SHAs). These gave an indication of local media coverage of health service issues by SHA. The maps have not been updated.

Hospitals: Admissions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the impact of the introduction of referral management schemes by primary care trusts on patient choice; and if she will make a statement; [121925]

(2) when she expects to answer Question number 121925, on referral management schemes, tabled by the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green on 16 February. [130621]

Andy Burnham: There has been no central assessment as this is for local determination.

The Department's guidance to the national health service is clear that, whether patients are referred direct to hospital by their general practitioner, or through a referral management scheme, they should be offered the choice of which hospital they wish to be referred to. We have asked primary care trusts to review existing referral management centres to ensure that they create tangible benefits for patients, and uphold the principles set out in Care and resource utilisation: ensuring appropriateness of care, published on 14 December 2006. This is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4141316&chk=iJxRrx

One of the principles in this document is that choice should be offered to patients when they are referred to hospital.

Hospitals: Infections

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has undertaken on the relationship between hospital lengths of stay and hospital acquired infection. [130076]

Caroline Flint: Length of stay was one of the factors considered in a report by Public Health Laboratory Service: Plowman, Rosalind et al and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4089724

This found that patients who acquired an infection in hospital remained in hospital longer than uninfected patients. On average an infection resulted in an extra 11 days in hospital.

The Department is also working on a desk analysis aimed at studying links between hospital level methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) rates and a variety of factors relating to hospital policy, management and patient mix. One of the variables included is an aggregate average length of stay measure for inpatients in each trust. This will test whether, other things being equal, hospitals whose patients have long lengths of stay tend to have higher MRSA rates than hospitals with shorter lengths of stay. The report is being peer reviewed and will be published later this year.

The mandatory surveillance of health care associated infections report 2006, available in the Library and at www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/mandatory_report_2006.htm, provides information on acquisition and length of stay.

In-patients

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* 50 to 64, *(b)* 65 to 74 and *(c)* 75 years and over were placed on (i) general wards and (ii) specialist wards in each of the last 10 years, broken down by primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [116248]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available.

Kettering General Hospital

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will visit Kettering General Hospital to discuss local NHS funding. [115517]

Andy Burnham: There are no immediate plans by the Secretary of State to visit Kettering General hospital.

Funding is allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) who are responsible for commissioning appropriate services to meet the health needs of their local populations.

Funding for the former Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT increased by over 31 per cent. (£63 million) in the three years from 2003-04 to 2005-06. The new Northamptonshire Teaching PCT which was formed on 1 October 2006 will receive £139 million in the two years from 2006-07 to 2007-08.

When the PCT allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08 were made, Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT, which has since been merged to form the Northamptonshire Teaching PCT, received an increase of 29.4 per cent, over these two years compared to a national average increase of 19.5 per cent, and the fifth highest increase of any PCT.

Kidney Patients

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England (i) were diagnosed with chronic kidney disease and (ii) required renal replacement therapy in each year since 1997; [128439]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England received renal replacement therapy in each year since 1997. [128442]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no national registry of chronic kidney disease (CKD). Over 99.9 per cent., of people with CKD will be under the care of general practitioners (GPs) and not seen by secondary or tertiary hospital services.

At general practice level, maintenance of a practice register of patients with CKD became a part of the quality and outcomes framework in April 2006, which in due course should mean that a very rich dataset will be available for every community in the country.

The United Kingdom Renal Registry (UKRR) holds data on patients receiving renal replacement therapy. The Newcastle renal unit has only been returning these data to the UKRR since 2002. The registry has analysed this data and determined that the number of people receiving renal replacement therapy in South Tyneside at the end of each year since then is in the following table.

Number of people receiving renal replacement therapy in South Tyneside

As of 31 December	*Number*
2002	78
2003	83
2004	89
2005	97

In the North East of England, the number of people receiving renal replacement therapy at the end of each year is in the following table.

People receiving renal replacement therapy in the North East of England

As of 31 December	*Number*
2002	1,469
2003	1,501
2004	1,571
2005	1,635

Across England, the number of people receiving renal replacement therapy at the end of each year is in the following table.

People receiving renal replacement therapy across England

As of 31 December	*Number*
2002	30,966
2003	31,248
2004	32,256
2005	34,574

Data on the number of patients receiving renal replacement therapy are not collected by parliamentary constituency.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were on the waiting list for treatment for dialysis services in each year since 1997. [128440]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no specific waiting list for dialysis. Dialysis is often an emergency treatment, and patients with no kidney function will die in a matter of weeks if they do not receive dialysis. For patients whose disease has been identified well in advance of end-stage renal failure, dialysis begins at a time that they and their consultant feel is appropriate.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died from chronic kidney disease whilst waiting for NHS treatment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [128441]

Ms Rosie Winterton: These data are not collected centrally.

Mental Health Services: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were for young people to see child and adolescent mental health services staff in the last three years for which data are available. [130271]

Caroline Flint: Information is not collected in the format requested. The most recent information available is from the 2005 child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) mapping exercise. In November 2005, there were 26,207 children and young people waiting to be seen by specialist CAMHS in England, a reduction of 2,674 from the previous year.

In November 2005 52 per cent. of new cases were seen by specialist CAMHS within four weeks, an additional 33 per cent. within 13 weeks, and a further 10 per cent. within 26 weeks. Five per cent. of children and young people waited over 26 weeks to be seen by specialist CAMHS.

NHS: Complaints

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for advertising the NHS complaints procedure was for each of the last five years. [128718]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Individual national health service organisations are under a legal requirement to publicise complaints procedures. Information on how much money has been spent on this activity is not collected centrally.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total value of capital-to-revenue transfers made by her Department was in each year since 1997-98. [124933]

Andy Burnham: The information is in the table

	Capital to revenue transfers' (£ million)
1997-98	270.981
1998-99	372.082
1999-2000	534.951
2000-01	750.292
2001-02	877.830
2002-03	1,019.344
2003-04	835.796

	Capital to revenue transfers[1] (£ million)
2004-05	405.562
2005-06	391.562

[1] This includes all transfers, main, in year and technical adjustments.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 315W, on NHS: procurement, what restrictions are in place on how DHL can *(a)* apply a margin and *(b)* increase a sell price. [129653]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is considered commercially sensitive.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust: Maternity Services

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure on maternity services was at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole hospitals NHS trust in each of the last five years. [129331]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the total expenditure on maternity services at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole hospitals national health service trust.

			£000
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Maternity function: patients using a bed	8,224	8,539	9,096
Maternity function: out-patients	1,274	877	2,070
Health programme: maternity services	0	0	1,128
Total	9,498	9,416	12,294

Note:
Data is obtained from the annual financial returns, because of changes in the format of the financial returns, this information is not available after 2003-04.

Source:
Financial returns of the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole hospitals NHS trust 2001-02 to 2003-04

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made since September 2006 with the new model of midwifery care announced by the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole hospitals NHS trust. [129332]

Andy Burnham: The proposed changes to midwifery services were implemented in January 2007. The newly formed teams now cover the geographical areas of Goole and Isle, Barton, Brigg, town centre north and town centre south. The Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority (SHA) reports that the teams are now staffed by both midwives and midwifery support workers, a newly developed post at national vocational qualification (NVQ) level 3. The teams are now practicing from either midwifery centres (Goole, Crowle, Brigg and Ashby) or from children's centres (West Street, Henderson Avenue and Castledyke). A few antenatal clinics continue to be offered from general practitioner surgeries.

The Northern Lincolnshire and Goole hospitals national health service trust continues to evaluate the changes made to the model of care.

Nutrition

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Food Standards Agency, *(b)* Ofcom, *(c)* Grocer magazine and *(d)* others on the nutrient profiling model; and if she will make a statement. [126233]

Caroline Flint: The development of the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) nutrient profiling model was subject to extensive public consultation prior to being agreed by the Agency's Board in 2005, and both the Department and the FSA have received a number of representations on the model since.

I have had regular discussions with the FSA on the model while it was being developed for use by Ofcom, to enable them to target new rules on television advertising of foods high in fat, salt or sugar, without having an unhelpful impact on the advertising of healthier options.

I have had several discussions with the Chair of Ofcom, and wrote in support of the model as an appropriate basis for underpinning regulatory intervention in relation to broadcast food advertising to children on 6 December 2005.

I have also undertaken two interviews with The Grocer magazine in May and September 2006, at which time the nutrient profiling model was raised among other topics.

Overweight Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of children who were *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. [129889]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on obesity and overweight prevalence among children are available from the Health Survey for England. Data on obesity and overweight cannot be provided for individual ages, over a time series. The tables show the prevalence of obesity and overweight for children aged two to 10 and 11 to 15, for the last 10 years for which data are available.

Children's overweight and obesity prevalence, by survey year, 1995 to 2005, England

								Percentage
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Aged 2-10								
Overweight	12.8	12.4	12.5	13.6	13.8	12.6	14.8	13.2
Obese	9.9	10.6	10.9	11.6	14.6	12.0	13.1	15.5

Children's overweight and obesity prevalence, by survey year, 1995 to 2005, England

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Percentage 2002
Overweight including obese	22.7	23.1	23.4	25.2	28.4	24.6	27.9	28.7
Aged 11-15								
Overweight.	13.6	14.2	14.0	15.2	14.3	12.3	15.8	14.7
Obese	14.4	14.3	15.9	16.9	16.1	18.5	18.2	19.5
Overweight including obese	28.1	28.6	29.9	32.1	30.4	30.8	34.1	34.2
Aged 2-15								
Overweight	13.1	13.0	13.0	14.1	14.0	12.5	15.1	13.8
Obese	11.5	11.9	12.6	13.4	15.1	14.3	15.0	17.0
Overweight including obese	24.5	24.9	25.6	27.5	29.0	26.8	30.1	30.8
Bases (weighted)								
2-10	2,527	2,783	4,089	2,552	1,262	1,094	2,129	4,654
11-15	1,293	1,363	2,043	1,301	665	624	1,223	2,726
2-15	3,819	4,146	6,132	3,853	1,927	1,718	3,352	7,381

	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[1]	2003[2]	2004[2]	Percentage 2005[2]
Aged 2-10						
Overweight	14.0	14.2	14.3	14.0	14.7	14.2
Obese	13.7	14.3	16.7	13.8	14.5	16.8
Overweight including obese	27.7	28.5	30.9	27.8	29.1	31.0
Aged 11-15						
Overweight	15.2	16.1	14.4	15.4	16.0	14.5
Obese	21.2	25.0	20.5	21.0	25.4	20.6
Overweight including obese	36.4	41.1	35.0	36.4	41.4	35.1
Aged 2-15						
Overweight	14.5	14.9	14.3	14.6	15.2	14.3
Obese	16.5	18.3	18.0	16.6	18.8	18.3
Overweight including obese	31.0	33.2	32.4	31.2	34.0	32.6
Bases (weighted)						
2-10	1,774	759	1,419	1,736	726	1,338
11-15	1,081	465	794	1,109	480	855
2-15	2,854	1,224	2,212	2,845	1,206	2,193

[1] From 2003 data were also weighted for non-response. Data weighted for child selection only are provided for consistency with previous years.
[2] Weighted.
Source:
The Health Survey for England: Uprating of tend tables to include 2005 data. The information Centre.

Patients Forums

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she intends patient and public involvement forum members to become members of local involvement networks; and if she will make a statement. [129219]

Ms Rosie Winterton: While we are strongly encouraging forum members to become involved in the new local involvement networks (LINks), we do not wish to prescribe that they should automatically become members because we want all aspects of the arrangements for LINks to be locally determined. It will be a matter for each LINk and Host to consider how best to attract members and involve all people, especially those with experience and knowledge of patient and public involvement.

Patients Forums: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the money provided by her Department to county councils for the purpose of establishing and supporting local involvement networks will be ring-fenced; and if she will make a statement. [129222]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is Government policy to devolve power to local authorities, which will make decisions on priorities according to local needs. For this reason we will not be ring-fencing the funds made available for local involvement networks (LINks), but will be making a targeted grant to each local authority with social services responsibility for the purpose of supporting LINk activities.

Patients Forums: Powers

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether local involvement networks will have a right of entry and access in order to carry out inspections; and if she will make a statement. [129221]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is our intention to give local involvement networks a right of entry to health and social care facilities to enable them to carry out their activities. Clause 175 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, which is currently before Parliament, sets out the duties services-providers will be under to allow entry by local involvement networks.

Patients Forums: Public Appointments

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will issue national guidance on how members should be appointed to local involvement networks; and if she will make a statement. [129220]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are clear that LINks must be able to be flexible and reflect the nature of local communities. Therefore we do not wish to centrally prescribe details on membership. However we do think it is important to provide models of good practice in terms of recruitment, support and conduct of those involved in LINk activity. These will be set out in guidance in due course.

Photosensitivity

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on people diagnosed with photosensitivity of (i) low energy light bulbs and (ii) incandescent light bulbs; and what assessment she has made of the implications of a ban on the latter for people with photosensitivity. [128689]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not commissioned work of this specific nature. There are no firm proposals to ban such light bulbs and it would clearly be necessary to engage the various interested Government Departments, regulatory agencies and advisory bodies in the event of such a ban being considered.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the NHS in making available National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence approved treatments for prostate cancer. [128523]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In June 2006, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance for the national health service on the use of docetaxel for the treatment of prostate cancer. NICE recommended the use of this treatment for particular groups of patients.

NICE technology appraisals are covered by a three-month funding direction. PCTs have a legal obligation to provide funding for treatments recommended by NICE within three months of the guidance being issued.

NICE guidance is also included in "Standards for Better Health", which sets out the Government's high-level expectations for the health service. Adherence to NICE technology appraisals is one of the core standards against which NHS organisations are assessed in the Healthcare Commission's annual health check.

In July 2006, Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, published a review report examining the uptake of NICE approved cancer drugs. Although the report did not include docetaxel for prostate cancer as its guidance had only just been finalised, the report found that approval of a cancer drug by NICE led to increased use of that drug by the NHS and a reduction in variation in use.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Vaccination

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to introduce human papilloma virus immunisation for females aged 12 years and above in England; and if she will make a statement. [129559]

Caroline Flint: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is in the process of thoroughly examining the vaccine safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness evidence concerning human papilloma virus vaccines. The work is being taken forward by a sub-group of JCVI, with further work ongoing to evaluate whether the vaccine is considered to be a cost-effective prevention of cervical cancer; and the impact that HPV vaccine may have on genital warts.

The sub group's advice will be reported to the main JCVI committee for further discussion.

No decisions will be taken on introducing these vaccines into the immunisation programme until JCVI has presented its advice to Ministers for their consideration.

Social Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* local authorities in England provided services for adults with (i) low and (ii) moderate social care needs in each year since 2001. [130509]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally.

Toxocariasis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of human toxocariasis there were in England in each year since 1997-98, broken down by primary care trust area. [127827]

Caroline Flint: Toxocara is not a notifiable disease in England and Wales, therefore the numbers of cases per year is taken from confirmed diagnostic laboratory reports. The Health Protection Agency received 19 laboratory reports in 1998 and fewer than 10 reports in each of the years since then. The breakdown of data by primary care trust area is not collected.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on a waiting list for an organ transplant in each of the last 10 years. [128554]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the number of people placed onto the organ transplant list at any time during each of the last 10 years and those on the list at the end of each of the relevant calendar years.

	On list anytime during the year	*On list at end of year*
1997	9,886	6,457
1998	9,831	6,507
1999	9,785	6,676
2000	10,070	6,779
2001	10,280	6,842
2002	10,420	7,072
2003	10,622	7,278
2004	11,290	7,725
2005	12,096	8,111
2006	13,187	8,990